



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 28 Feb NC1003123095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 February edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Nongovernmental Organizations Denounce Official Practice
2. Islamists Assaulted at Teachers Association Elections
3. Columnist Dreams End to 'Frustrating Conditions'
4. Scholar Demands Muslims' Right to Live
5. Partisans Show Conflicting Views on Islamists
6. Muslim Brotherhood Figure Urges Freedom To Confront Enemy

NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS DENOUNCE OFFICIAL PRACTICE

A 400-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im on pages 1 and 6 says that representatives of eight nongovernmental organizations have declared their "full condemnation of government practices that seek to impose a tighter blockade on civilian establishments." The representatives denounced a Ministry of Justice memorandum that outlawed some civilian establishments and subjected them to a law authorizing the Ministry of Social Affairs to dissolve and substitute their boards, confiscate their funds, close their premises, or merge them with other associations.

At an urgent meeting at the headquarters of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization on 26 February, representatives decided to set up a committee to "defend the civilian community and human rights" and a legal committee to prepare a reply to the Ministry of Justice's memorandum.

Participants in the urgent meeting decided to invite organizations operating in the field of human rights to "coordinate their position" vis-a-vis the alleged official campaign against them and sensitize local and world public opinion to the "schemes" that seek to destroy them, the report says.

ISLAMISTS ASSAULTED AT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

A 1,000-report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad, Mu'tazz al-Hadidi, Muhammad Hilal, and "AL-SHA'B correspondents" on pages 1 and 6 discusses "bloody incidents" during the Teachers Association elections in the various governorates on 23 February. The report claims that the central security forces "assaulted Islamist candidates" and used tear gas and rubber bullets against the teachers, who "succeeded in preventing the National Democratic Party from rigging the elections."

According to the report, the Ministry of Education and the General Teachers Association obstructed Islamist candidates by "transferring large numbers to administrative jobs and sending them into exile outside their governorates."

The report adds that several teachers contested the elections and demanded that the results be canceled.

The report cites cases in which Islamist candidates were arrested or assaulted and their supporters prevented from attending the sorting of votes. Other cases involved rigging of the elections in favor of the National Democratic Party candidates.

COLUMNIST DREAMS END TO 'FRUSTRATING CONDITIONS'

In a 500-word column, "The Natives," on page 12 Islamist writer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus laments "the prevailing conditions that generate desperation and frustration, where one presidential candidate competes with himself."

'Abd-al-Quddus looks forward to a "day of 'Id," when "Egyptian rulers will rule for a specific period rather than for life" and when they are accountable to people's deputies, when the ruling process becomes open to all parties through "free elections that are not governed by the Interior Ministry's computer," when the "police system ends" and real freedom is established, and when "thousands of people detained without trial are released."

He contends that the man on the street no longer accepts the media's "idolization and glorification of the ruler, because we have had our fill of pharaohs."

"We want the president to keep his hands off the national press and to stop being authorized to appoint newspapers' editors in chief. We demand that the private sector and individuals be given the right to issue newspapers and magazines," 'Abd-al-Quddus states.

His thoughts conveyed, 'Abd-al-Quddus concludes: "Today's dreams are tomorrow's realities," suggesting that the "routine of shouting the slogan 'We give our souls and blood for you Mr. president' will certainly not weigh heavily on us forever."

SCHOLAR DEMANDS MUSLIMS' RIGHT TO LIVE

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, in his 300-word column "This Is Our Religion," on page 12, writes that men of religion are responsible for the current "diminished loyalty" to religion and for the "secularist control" of the United Nations and other human activity, because their perceived negative attitude "made room for doctrines and philosophies that would not otherwise have emerged."

He states that the Islamic doctrine acknowledges the existence of other creeds and religions and that "differences among mankind are inescapable," but should not be a cause for rivalry or strife.

Explaining that Islam allows a Muslim to take a Jewish or Christian wife and thus let two religions coexist under one roof, he asks why one spacious earth cannot be enough for more than one religion.

He "reproaches" the followers of other religions for "outlawing" Islam and viewing Muslims as "unworthy of living."

"We Muslims want to be treated naturally; we want recognition for our right to live and to promote our religion peacefully," he says, asking the others to "aim your rifles away from us, because materialism is about to devastate everything."

PARTISANS SHOW CONFLICTING VIEWS ON ISLAMISTS

Page 3 features a 4,000-word unattributed report that gives an account of "an intellectual meeting" hosted by the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, NPUG, on 25 February. Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn and NPUG Secretary General Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id were invited to engage in an "intellectual dialogue" to develop "a less divided vision to confront challenges facing the nation."

'Adil Husayn is cited stating his belief in "pluralism within the Islamic movement." Unlike Dr. al-Sa'id, he is said to believe it is wrong to assume that "Islam is the Muslim Brotherhood." Husayn is cited noting: It is "unrealistic and superficial to treat all the advocates of the Islamic solution as one and the same thing."

Discussing the reality in Egypt, Husayn notes the existence of "a contemporary Islamic recovery" in Egypt that enlivens political and social activity. He contends: "Failure to pay attention to this contemporary Islamic phenomenon leads to failure to understand the phenomenon of distinctive civilization."

Speaking for the Labor Party, Husayn explains that the party was built on the belief that "Islam is the religion of the majority and the civilization of all Arabs and Muslims and that this common heritage is the future." He maintains that the party's structure "surmounts the differences of the past," since its Executive Committee embraces Nasirists, leftists, and Muslim Brothers, who together pursue "an intellectual feeling to unite the nation."

Husayn calls for "a front involving all the powers to confront the fierce onslaught the enemies of the nation are plotting." To this end, he stresses the need to eliminate differences and reconsider the position on the Islamic movement and the "all-out hostility to everything Islamic."

NPUG Secretary General Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id says he refuses to call the "prevailing current" "fundamentalist," "extremist," "Salafi," "Islamic recovery," or "Islamist," opting to call its followers "Muslimized."

Dr. al-Sa'id says he believes that "Muslimized groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, terrorists, Islamic Group, al-Jihad, and other parties, like the Labor or Liberal parties, all come from the same origin and the same intellectual vessel."

He highlights the need to "distinguish the element of faith from politics," stating that it is wrong to "politicize religion." He explains that religion is "divine" while politics is "human," arguing: "Hence, mixing the two confuses the divine with the human."

Equally, he says: "Religion-oriented politics leads the advocate of a political view to believe in what he says and to think that the masses are with him."

Noting that the Muslim Brothers were the first to demand the politicization of religion and the dissolution of political parties, he maintains: "The idea of a religion-oriented government puts us before the dictatorial dilemma, where there are no elections, no parties, and no opposition."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURE URGES FREEDOM TO CONFRONT ENEMY

Deputy Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Mustaf Mashhur, in his 1,000-word article on page 5, urges the government to grant people freedom to guarantee their cooperation in confronting the enemy.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat-Christopher Talks, Remarks Reported

JN1003150095 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1415 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with 'Adil al-Za'nun, radio correspondent in Gaza, by radio broadcaster Daniel Khalaf in the studio, "on the ongoing meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher"—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khalaf] 'Adil.

[Al-Za'nun] Good evening, Daniel, and good evening to our dear listeners.

[Khalaf] Are there any reports on the talks?

[Al-Za'nun] The meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ended a short while ago. The meeting dealt with a number of issues, particularly the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles regarding the relocation [of the Israeli Army] and the holding of Palestinian legislative elections. President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher also discussed the role of the

cosponsors of the peace process in giving momentum to the peace process and in expediting the implementation of the accord.

Following the meeting, President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher held a news conference in which President 'Arafat thanked President Clinton for his continued support for the peace process and described this meeting as positive. 'Arafat added: We take [Israeli] security needs into consideration, and Palestinian security needs should also be taken into consideration. The president noted that there should be positive progress in the peace process and talks, particularly with regard to the relocation and elections.

For his part, Christopher thanked President 'Arafat for the hospitality he was accorded and promised to supply the Palestinian Police with 200 trucks and spare parts. Christopher added: We will send Palestinian experts in the field of agriculture for training in the United States. Secretary Christopher said that the United States will continue its support for the National Authority.

[Khalaf] Did they discuss the delay in implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles?

[Al-Za'nun] Yes, President 'Arafat and Secretary Christopher reaffirmed the need to expedite the implementation of the peace agreements, particularly the second phase concerning relocation and legislative elections.

[Khalaf] Thank you, 'Adil al-Za'nun, Voice of Palestine correspondent in Gaza.

[Al-Za'nun] Thank you.

Further on 'Arafat, Christopher Statements

JN1003195095 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1830 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Presidential Office in Gaza at noon today. The two sides discussed several issues, the most important of which was the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. This phase of the agreement stipulates the redeployment [of Israeli forces] and the holding of Palestinian legislative elections. The two sides also discussed the U.S. role in advancing the peace process, as well as the need to accelerate the application of the peace agreement.

At a news conference he and Christopher held, President 'Arafat described the meeting as positive and fruitful. He said that we do not have a magic wand to do whatever we want and that we want the other party to cooperate with us rather than commemorating in Kiryat 'Arba' the death of Goldstein, who committed the Ibrahim Mosque massacre last February.

'Arafat added: We have stopped 10 attempts to carry out violent operations but the Israeli media has said nothing about it. Rather, he said, they are exaggerating the issue. President 'Arafat stressed the need for the two sides to coordinate to prevent violence from both sides and to enable our and their children to enjoy peace. The president also stressed the need to accelerate the peace process, particularly the redeployment and the holding of legislative elections.

For his part, Christopher said: When I came to Gaza, I noticed tangible progress in the construction operations. He pledged to accelerate aid from donor countries to the National Authority and also to provide 200 trucks and spare parts to the Palestinian police. Christopher asserted that everybody is seeking peace and expressed his hope that a true peace would be reached. He then pointed out that his government would continue to extend aid and support to the peace process.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], minister of trade and industry; Zakariya al-Agha, the minister of housing; Furayh Abu-Middayn, the minister of justice; and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information. It was attended on the U.S. side by Dennis Ross, coordinator of Middle East affairs, and Robert Pelletreau.

'Arafat To Brief Mubarak on Recent Developments

JN1003160195 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine ambassador in Cairo, today told journalists that President Yasir 'Arafat will brief Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of his recent talks with King Hassan II of Morocco, the agreement reached with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and the obstacles facing the peace process. President 'Arafat will also brief President Mubarak on the outcome of his meeting today with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

'Arafat Chairs Cabinet Meeting, Departs for Cairo

JN1103150395 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for the Egyptian capital, Cairo, at noon today where he will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. President 'Arafat is accompanied by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation.

In a predeparture statement, the president said: President Mubarak and I will discuss many issues. He added that he will brief President Mubarak on the talks he held with Peres and Christopher.

President 'Arafat noted the role Egyptian President Mubarak is playing to promote the peace process on all levels, especially since no agreement has thus far been reached on basic issues related to redeployment and legislative elections.

In another development, President 'Arafat today chaired a meeting of the [Palestinian] National Authority's cabinet at the presidency in Gaza. Discussions focused on the results of the meeting between President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as well as 'Arafat's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday.

Cabinet Meeting Issues Detailed

JN1103202895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1830 GMT 11 Mar 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the National Authority at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. The meeting discussed the results of President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher yesterday.

The council also tackled outstanding economic issues, particularly the rights of the Palestinian workers to the value added tax collected by Israel, the pension fund of the Palestinian employees who worked in the Gaza Strip during Israel's occupation, and several other issues.

Sports and Youth Minister Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi said that the Council of Ministers has asked a high-level committee to hold negotiations on Jerusalem. The committee will hold an emergency meeting to discuss Palestinian alternatives and possible strategies. He pointed out that during its upcoming meeting, the Council of Ministers would determine alternatives that could be adopted.

For his part, Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Council of Ministers also discussed the impact of the Israeli military siege on the already crippled economy. The council, he said, also discussed obstacles hampering customs activity and Palestinian goods traffic. 'Abd-Rabbuh added that the main defect was the failure to honor the rules of negotiations. He expressed his hope that as a result of President 'Arafat's meeting with Foreign Minister Peres, the two sides would implement agreements on the redeployment [of the Israeli forces], the holding of legislative elections, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and settlement activity.

PNC's al-Za'nun: Executive Committee To Meet 16 Mar

JN1203095595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Mar 95 p 5

[Report by Ruba al-Husari in "Occupied Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu-al-Adib, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council, has expected that that the PLO Executive Committee will convene in Tunis next week, for the first time with a legal quorum, after the Gaza and Cairo meetings failed to draw more than nine members. He said the Executive Committee meeting will assess the peace process that is passing through difficult circumstances.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in occupied Jerusalem yesterday, where he is making his third visit since the return of the PLO cadres to Gaza last July, al-Za'nun said: We have assurances that 11 members will attend the Executive Committee meeting, including Faruq Qad-dumi and Mahmud 'Abbas who boycotted the last two meetings to protest the venues of these meetings. He admitted that the decision to convene the last committee meeting in Cairo, which was a failure, was adopted unilaterally.

The Executive Committee meeting is due to be held on 16 March, one day after the official Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis. The Central Committee has begun unofficial consultations on the future of the Palestinian negotiations with Israel. The last Central Committee meeting was held four months ago.

The Central Committee and Executive Committee are not expected to adopt decisive decisions such as halting or suspending the troubled negotiations with Israel. It is expected that the conferees will discuss mobilizing Arab support for convening an Arab summit after a call to this effect made by the PLO during its latest meeting in Cairo was rejected.

Al-Za'nun, who is a Central Committee member, blamed Syria and other countries for rejecting the call. He said: Our call was rejected because Syria and Kuwait opposed it, while others were neutral, and we and the Jordanians were alone.

He said the Executive Committee will discuss the feasibility of assigning a delegation of influential members, such as Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], with mustering Arab support and eliminating the reasons that prevent the holding of an Arab summit. [passage omitted]

Al-Za'nun ruled out the possibility of convening a new PNC session soon, and expected this meeting to be left until the end of the transitional stage. He said convening the PNC has become an Israeli more than a Palestinian demand after Yasir 'Arafat pledged in his message to Yitzhaq Rabin to amend the Palestinian National Charter during the first PNC session. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Terms Meeting With Peres 'Positive'

JN1003144195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1400 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat performed Friday prayers today at the al-'Abbas Mosque in al-Rimal neighborhood in Gaza. He was accompanied by Awqaf Minister Hasan Tahbub.

Following prayers, President 'Arafat told journalists that his meeting yesterday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was positive. However, he added, no tangible results were reached on the two basic issues, legislative elections and [Israeli troop] redeployment. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat on Christopher's Tour, Talks With Israelis

NC1203074595 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic* 0610 GMT 12 Mar 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Husayn] Has U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour produced something new regarding the outstanding issues between the Palestinian and Israeli sides?

['Urayqat] We cannot say that there is a new development as a result of Christopher's visit. As you know, Secretary Christopher's tour seeks to promote the peace process on all tracks, specifically on the Syrian-Israeli track which, like the Palestinian-Israeli track, is on hold. As far as the Palestinian-Israeli track is concerned, the interim agreement between the two sides should have been implemented eight months ago. Secretary Christopher took note of the agreement reached and the new deadline set for the end of June. He promised that the U.S. Administration would do all it could. But let us not be too optimistic about the position of the U.S. Administration, particularly since specifically on the Palestinian-Israeli track the U.S. bias is well-known. Therefore, we Palestinians rely on the Arab dimension. President 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is part of the coordination and consultations over the steps that need to be taken regarding the Palestinian-Israeli track, particularly during the coming crucial three months.

[Husayn] It seems that the coming round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which is due to start in Cairo on Tuesday [14 March], will take place in a different atmosphere. Dr. 'Urayqat: What are the topics you will discuss with the Israeli side?

['Urayqat] As you know, this is the 10th round of talks to be held in Cairo. All the issues that needed to be discussed have been addressed. The Israelis have realized that election is an integral part of the interim period, which should also include redeployment. After having discussed the issues related to the nature and makeup of the council proposed to be elected, the international supervision and monitoring, election campaigns, and other issues, at this round we will propose to

the Israeli delegation a comprehensive draft agreement which we hope that the Israelis will endorse as soon as possible. In the last round in Cairo, we submitted to the Israelis six papers comparing the Palestinian and Israeli positions on the points that must be included in the interim agreement on elections. We tried to work out a joint draft on these matters, but unfortunately we could not. During this round, we will put forward to them a comprehensive draft agreement on these issues to which we hope there will be a positive response so that in the coming three months we could finalize the negotiations on elections, redeployment, revision of laws, and the transfer of the remaining powers. These issues constitute one package and together they form the interim agreement, which we hope we will conclude before the end of June. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Cancels Copenhagen Visit, Apologizes to Summit

JN1103073795 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic* 0600 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has canceled his scheduled visit to Copenhagen to participate in the UN summit on social development. 'Arafat addressed a letter of apology to those who supervise the conference.

Israelis Absent for al-Wazir's Speech

JN1103160995 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic* 1400 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, minister of social affairs in the [Palestinian] National Authority, has delivered Palestine's speech at the Social and Economic Development Summit in Copenhagen.

The minister said the Israeli delegation was absent when she delivered Palestine's speech at the summit. She added that Israeli Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir apologized to the Palestinian delegation for the absence of the Israeli delegation and laid the blame on the Israeli delegation, in the presence of Mrs. Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], for being absent when Palestine's speech was delivered.

Quray' Urges 'Immediate' Withdrawal From Villages

JN1203190895 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic* 1830 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Industry and Trade Ahmad Quray' has called for an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupation army from Palestinian cities and villages prior to the redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank. The purpose of this is to bolster confidence in the peace process.

In press statements today, Quray' said the Palestinian and Israeli sides must hold intensive negotiations to reach an agreement on the implementation of the second

phase of the Declaration of principles agreement prior to 1 July, the date set for the conclusion of the talks.

For his part, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, said the Palestinian delegation will propose to the Israeli side a comprehensive draft that outlines the Palestinian view of the redeployment, the transfer of the rest of the authorities, and the holding of elections in the West Bank.

Minister Urges Donor States to Honor Commitments

NC1203133495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Mar 95 p 8

[Interview with Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PA minister of finance, by Mahmud 'Abd-al'Azim; place and date not given—first three paragraphs are AL-WAFD introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Nashashibi, finance minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], said that the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho is facing a serious financial problem that will reach its apex on 31 March, the date when the donor states' assistance will stop. He said that the huge gap between the revenues and expenditures of the Palestinian Authority portends a catastrophe as a result of the fixed revenues and the increase in expenditures. He noted that the size of the PA's monthly expenses is estimated at US\$30 million while the proceeds from the West Bank income tax does not exceed \$4 million.

Al-Nashashibi said that the assistance the PA received from the World Bank until the end of December 1994 amounted to \$50 million. This is in addition to the \$22 million transferred to the Palestinian police fund from the Western donor states. He warned the donor states against the delay in implementing the infrastructure projects in the West Bank and Gaza. He maintained that a wave of violence might break out during the next stage as a result of the frustration prevailing in the self-rule areas.

The Palestinian minister urged the donor states to reconsider their position and to continue to support the Palestinian budget for a period of two years. He said that the socioeconomic situation in Gaza is facing an extensive deterioration and that the rate of unemployment has skyrocketed to reach 52 percent out of a population of 1.1 million.

[Abd-al'Azim] What is the present financial status of the PA and what are your future plans to support this status?

[Al-Nashashibi] We are facing a real budgetary problem as a result of the gap between the PA's revenues and expenditures. There is a huge deficit between these two factors which places the PA in confrontation with crises the solution of which does not seem possible in the foreseeable future. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al'Azim] What will your position be should the donor states fail to honor their commitments toward the PA?

[Al-Nashashibi] We are currently trying to intensify our contacts with the donor states with the hope of making them rectify their position and continue their assistance for a period of at least two years. But if these states insist on halting their assistance, we will face a multi-faceted catastrophe on 31 March. Under the circumstances, we will be compelled to use all means to bridge the budget deficit. One of these means is that we will try, though against our will, to obtain loans. Nevertheless, the donor states must realize that the delay of the World Bank in implementing the infrastructure projects in Gaza and any other development project could generate grave consequences on the security level. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al'Azim] How much will the construction projects cost in the self-rule areas?

[Al-Nashashibi] The electricity network in Gaza will cost \$150 millions, the road network will cost \$40 millions, and the construction of hospitals and schools will cost \$10 millions. But the expenses of the other construction projects, such as factories and land reclamation projects, will cost \$2.8 billion.

Official Cited on Amman Displaced Persons Meeting

JN1303105595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Mar 95 p 27

[Report by Jawdat Manna' in "occupied Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Jerusalem—The minister of housing in the Palestinian National Authority has said that his ministry is expected to carry out huge tasks to accommodate hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians who fled their homes in the aftermath of the 1967 Israeli aggression.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha added that the Palestinian Ministry of Housing is drawing up a plan to build housing units for Palestinian returnees.

Al-Agha believes that the convening of the first meeting on displaced in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 7 March was long overdue. This meeting should have been held earlier as provided for in the Declaration of Principles signed between the PLO and Israel, because it concerns a basic issue; namely, the repatriation of the displaced persons who were forced to flee their homes in 1967, al-Agha maintained.

Al-Agha went on to say: We attach great importance to this issue, because it concerns a large number of Palestinians who have been denied the right to repatriation for scores of years simply because they are Palestinians.

Al-Agha pointed out that the Camp David Accords signed between Egypt and Israel and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement provide for the repatriation of the displaced in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 237. It is our hope that the repatriation will be scheduled in terms of timetables as soon as possible.

Dr. al-Agha described the outcome of the Amman meetings as very modest, adding: The Amman meetings were merely ceremonial. They have failed to take any measures, except for the formation of technical committees. These are procedural matters. It is our hope that the committees will expedite their work.

When asked about the dispute that surfaced during the first meeting on the displaced regarding the number of displaced eligible for repatriation, Dr. al-Agha said: The United Nations has official statistics on the number of displaced persons. Israel has provided incorrect figures in this regard.

Al-Agha added that the children who were forced to flee their homes in 1967 now have families of their own. These people, along with their own children, have the right to return. That is why the dispute surfaced on the number of displaced persons. I wish the dispute on this issue was settled.

Dr. al-Agha criticized the Israeli policy aimed to classify the displaced Palestinians. He added that this policy is nothing new. Israel believes that all Jews of the world have a divine right to return to Israel and live there, whereas the indigenous population of the land who were born and raised here are being discriminated against. This is unacceptable to us, because it reveals unmistakable injustice as well as a violation of our most basic human rights.

Minister al-Agha reiterated that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is adamant in its views regarding the repatriation of displaced persons on the basis of UN [General Assembly] Resolution 194 and UN Security Council Resolution 237.

The Palestinian minister urged the Arab states to cooperate with the Palestinians in the political and financial

fields to enable the displaced to return home and facilitate their absorption in their homeland. This requires joint Arab moves on the political and economic levels, Dr. al-Agha said.

Gaza Journalists Accuse 'Arafat of Censoring Article

NC1203213295 Paris AFP in English 2025 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, March 12 (AFP)—Gaza journalists on Sunday [12 March] accused Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule Authority of censoring a newspaper article criticising Palestinian police chiefs.

The Association of Arab Journalists said the Palestinian Authority Friday seized a delivery of the Palestinian monthly SAHIL AL-FILASTINI, before releasing copies two days later with the offending article replaced by another.

The article by Zaki Kilani, head of Gaza's human rights association, accused police chiefs of failing to protect three Palestinian policemen shot dead by the Israeli army on January 2 on the border between Israel and Gaza.

"We have many intelligence agencies but what purpose do they serve?" Kilani wrote.

The monthly is financed by the Palestinian Authority and generally reflects the views of 'Arafat's Fatah faction.

Kilani was questioned Friday by the Palestinian intelligence service before being released, the journalists' association said in a statement.

"We condemn the behaviour of certain Palestinian Authority officials... It is a violation of press freedom," the statement said.

"We call on President 'Arafat to do his best to prevent a repeat of this type of very dangerous incident," it added.

Algeria

New Round of Talks on Presidential Elections Begin

LD1103141495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another round of the national dialogue determined by the presidency begins today with national figures, political parties, and associations on the technical aspects of the organization of the presidential elections that are to be held before the end of this year.

A statement from the state presidency announced yesterday that the presidency is today beginning a series of consultations with the political parties and associations. This round comes after the meetings between the head of state and 28 national figures during the holy month of Ramadan. The state presidency had previously published the results of these consultations with national figures. The statement said: These consultations made apparent a clear and dominant tendency that supported the holding of the elections.

However, the statement also said that a number of national figures said that it was necessary for a political agreement on the crisis to be reached before there was a return to elections.

For their part, the majority of the political parties in the country vied to record their proposals and contributions to the state presidency's memorandum on the technical aspects of organizing these elections by the appointed time—11 February 1994.

But some political parties from the national contract group [parties that signed the document of the Sant Egidio meeting in Rome] only replied to this document after the specified date.

It is clear that these parties did not record their observations on the technical aspects related to the organization of these elections, and were content to go back to recalling their well-known stance, which is the need for a political agreement on the crisis between the authorities and the representative opposition to be reached before there is a call for organizing new elections in the country.

Based on the stances recently announced in the media by these parties, it is difficult to predict whether the national contract group of eight parties will accept participation in these consultations or not. Until time provides us with new facts, we can only say that the Popular Unity Party, which is led by Mr. Habibi Djamel Eddine and is not represented in the Transitional National Council, is rushing to announce its rejection of participation in these consultations on the organization of the presidential elections, although he [Habibi] had previously announced that he will stand as a candidate in the upcoming presidential elections.

Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri, the minister of foreign affairs, in one of his press statements in Brussels, reiterated that these elections were an irrevocable decision and that they will take place before the end of the year.

Ait Ahmed Discusses Opposition to Elections

95AF0055A Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Feb 95 p 4

[Interview with Hocine Ait Ahmed, secretary general of the Front of Socialist Forces, by Catherine Simon, in Paris; date not given: "Hocine Ait Ahmed, Secretary General of the Socialist Forces Front: 'One Part of Algerian Society Must Be Prevented From Imposing Its Views On Another'"—first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction; final two paragraphs are report from AFP]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "peace dynamic" that the parties of the Algerian opposition, at their mid-January meeting in Rome with representatives from the former Islamic Salvation Front, had hoped to generate seems to be hanging fire. The spread of violence has not stopped during the month of Ramadan, which began on 1 February. By denouncing the resurgence of assassinations and the excesses of military repression, the secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), a group which is predominantly Kabyle, during a visit to Paris, reaffirmed the necessity of finding a political solution to the crisis.

[Simon] Nearly two months have gone by since the "platform" signed on 13 January in Rome by the main opposition parties—including the FFS—and representatives of the former Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Since then, the violence has gotten worse and the political situation is still deadlocked. Don't you feel powerless?

[Ait Ahmed] We are sorry the government hasn't moved positively on our initiative. Because none of the parties to the conflict, neither the government nor the Armed Islamic Groups, can win militarily. The crisis has now lasted three years. Three years of violence, three years of horrors that have led to a total of more than 40,000 deaths. Today, in the middle of Ramadan—which is supposed to be the month of forgiveness and reflection—we're seeing close to 1,000 deaths per week! These killings, whether they're assassinations or political actions, these horrors to which the Algerian people are held hostage, have nothing to do with Islam or patriotism.

We're powerless, yes, to the extent that we're peaceful parties. And that's exactly why we wanted to reach a compromise as quickly as possible. A compromise which, far from signifying the surrender of democratic forces, would, quite to the contrary, be the only means of preventing one part of society from imposing its will on another.

When the repressive line goes from failure to failure and only aggravates insecurity, the state has an obligation to change policy. By opposing a return to civil peace, the government indeed seems to be allied, in an unwritten contract, with the Islamist extremists. By marginalizing the peaceful political parties such as the FFS and by isolating the political leaders of the former FIS, it is encouraging violence and playing into the hands of the radical Islamists who, for their part, using a dialectic of complementarity, are playing into the government's hands. Hatred feeds on hatred.

Today the government has just isolated Ali Benhadj from his troops by sending him into the Sahara, into the Tamanrasset area, where he has been detained. This attitude unfortunately is not a new one. Each time there's an opportunity to bring the Islamists into the political ring and into the legal process, the government has made sure they switched to violence and that that violence was irreversible.

[Simon] While you advocate civil peace, your compatriot Said Sadi, the chairman of the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), is calling on Algerians to "resist" and engage in "self-defense." Once again the democratic camp seems to be very divided.

[Ahmed] The people of Algeria refuse to be trapped into civil war. They have been resisting all of the pressure, from the government and from the Islamists, for three years. And resisting means this: standing equidistant from both, not yielding to the government's maneuvers and not yielding to the threats of Islamist totalitarianism. The biggest show of resistance in the past three years was the signing of the Rome platform. That initiative was one way of saying no to death, of saying no to the killings. Resisting is not refusing to sit down with Hitler...by standing behind Stalin.

[Simon] For you it's easy to talk that way; you live in Switzerland where you risk nothing.

[Ahmed] Considerations of personal safety count for very little. I left Algeria in July 1992 at the request of the FFS leadership, in the wake of the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf. What matters is serving my country—wherever I may be—by retaining my autonomy. I'm not pretending to be in Algeria. I'll go back there as soon as my return can serve a purpose and not to lengthen the list of victims but to contribute to the success of the process that favors peace and democracy.

[Simon] So you are confirming your party's refusal to take part in the presidential elections that have been scheduled for this year?

[Ahmed] We have always been opposed to the idea of organizing a presidential election ahead of legislative elections. Despotism has now been succeeding itself for more than three decades. You don't change matters by appointing another dictator to head up a state. And then how can you think of moving towards elections when in many areas there are no more town halls, no administration, no security: the army is holed up in its barracks, leaving the people at the mercy of the armed groups.

The government's determination to organize this presidential election is aimed first at making the people understand that no concessions can be expected. It's also a way of telling the international community: "Don't involve yourself in our affairs"—what I call the Serbian syndrome. Because without civil peace and without a genuine transition—one that would allow society to

express itself freely, as the Rome contract advocated—there cannot be any return to the voting booth.

[Simon] Thus far the positions you're defending have only been given a lukewarm reception. Instead Western countries, like those of the Maghreb, have been taking a wait-and-see attitude with regard to Algeria.

[Ait Ahmed] The peoples of the Maghreb are very saddened by the tragedy in our country. The events in Marrakech and Fes, like the recent border incidents that resulted in the deaths of six Tunisian national guardsmen, show that the internationalization of violence is a fact. In Rabat as in Tunis, political leaders are worried. And many of them realize that if the violence in Algeria does not disappear quickly, there's the risk that all the mountains of the Maghreb could go up in flames. The parties in the Moroccan opposition saw this, they were delighted with the outcome of the Rome meeting.

As for the Western countries, there is reason, it's true, to be astonished by the timid attitude they still have with regard to Algeria. It's an attitude that some might even find to be discriminatory in contrast to the active support provided to the democratic process in the countries of Eastern Europe. How, when you're a democrat, can you pretend to be indignant about the Islamist totalitarian danger while not doing anything to safeguard the potentials for modernity that exist in our society?

In my view, the solution to the crisis must be found among Algerians, by Algerians themselves, in Algeria or elsewhere. But no purpose is served by crying out that there's foreign meddling while the government itself hasn't stopped appealing to the rest of the world to come to the rescue, and because of that the violence has become internationalized. We saw this in fact in December with the story of the hijacking of the Air France Airbus.

But it should be time for Westerners, particularly the European Union, to learn how to speak with one voice. We're not asking the international community to starve the people of Algeria. On the contrary, encouragement is necessary to restart the economy, which is the only device capable of solving social problems. But this must be done by establishing conditions and by exerting pressure on the government to enter into negotiations.

Assassination of a Military Security Officer

A Military Security (SM) officer, Djillali Meraou, known by the name of "Colonel Si Salah," was killed on Sunday, 19 February, together with his driver and a bodyguard. According to informed sources, the 56-year-old officer, who was in charge of press relations at the Defense Ministry, fell in an ambush with his escort in Kouba, one of the Islamists' Algiers fiefs. This triple assassination was made public, in a roundabout way, by the daily newspapers LE MATIN and EL MOUDJAHID, which ran the death notice without specifying Mr. Meraou's rank or duties.

On Wednesday the Justice Ministry announced that the night before Islamist prisoners had revolted in Serkadji

(formerly Red Beard) prison in Algiers. They killed four guards, wounded another, and held a sixth hostage. Police were dispatched to the scene to bring the uprising, which was still underway, under control late Wednesday morning. Since January 1992, Abdelkader Hachani, a former member of the "executive board" of the former Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), has been held without trial in Serkadji prison.

Prime Minister, Ministers Visit Car Bomb Site

LD1003185695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack with a car bomb was carried out at 0545 hours in the Jolie Vue district of Kouba this morning. According to the security services, 60 people, including eight children, were injured.

The attack which was heard over a five-kilometer radius, damaged the front of two buildings. Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, and Health Minister Yahia Kaidoum have visited the site of the attack. Let's listen to Mr. Mokdad Sifi, who was interviewed by Hamid Ghiies:

[Begin recording] [Sifi] I think my feeling is the same as that of all the Algerian people. One makes an observation of something blatant in the sense that it is the family, which is the basic unit of society, which has been targeted. There is no better illustration than this to say that these criminal acts are targeting the people, and at the end of the day it is peaceful people, peaceful families with children who are the targets in their sleep.

Fortunately, no-one was seriously injured. Sixty people were injured and they have all left the hospital after a few hours. Only four of those injured are still being treated but they will soon leave the hospital.

[Ghiles] So their lives are not in danger?

[Sifi] Absolutely not. They have slight wounds.

[Ghiles] Are the majority of those injured members of families of policemen?

[Sifi] Yes, they are the families of policemen. They are women and children who were injured by shattered glass and by the force of the explosion. [end recording]

Egypt

PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Private Talks

NC1103170495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace in Cairo this evening. 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The two presidents held private talks.

Expanded Meeting Held

NC1103180295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak resumed his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at an expanded meeting this evening. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Attending on the Palestinian side were Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, minister of planning and international cooperation; Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem; Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo; Marwan Kana'fani, spokesman for the Palestinian president; and Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, spokesman for the Palestinian president.

Minister on Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

NC1103191795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] After the meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the two sides had reviewed the results of the talks between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They also reviewed the situation in light of the meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The information minister said that President Mubarak and the Palestinian president reviewed developments in general and the contacts being made concerning the recent obstacles on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track. Asked about a recent statement by the Israeli foreign minister that the Israelis and the Palestinians are holding secret talks, and whether Egypt was aware of this, al-Sharif said that Egypt is not aware of this. He added: I do not think the Palestinians need to hold secret talks when public contacts are under way, when the two sides fully recognize each other, and when they have a joint declaration of principles. There is no need for secret negotiations. Al-Sharif explained that this subject was not raised in any way during Mubarak-'Arafat meeting.

Mubarak Discusses Various Issues With Ministers

NC1103133495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his hope that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the Middle East will yield positive results. He

stressed that the region's peace process is now passing through one of its most difficult and crucial stages.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following President Husni Mubarak's expanded meeting today with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and a number of ministers.

During the meeting President Mubarak asserted the need for everyone to be eager to maintain the peace process in the Middle East. He called for separating the contentious issues, dictated by the nature of things among the region's countries that are passing through an important transitional phase, from the rest of the peace process.

The president said all parties' political agenda must be characterized by understanding and accurate words to avoid negative effects on the public and lack of confidence among the parties concerned.

He said how easy it is to charge nations with fiery words or by threatening the use of force for local consumption and how difficult it is to convince them to cling to peace and to its values and to make the public rally around and pursue the peace.

Al-Sharif clarified that President Mubarak affirmed at the meeting that only the strong and confident can bear the burdens of peace and that peace is worth bearing these burdens for the sake of the nations and generations' interest.

He said that the president stressed the need for statements on peace to be calculated and precise with one face inside and outside and to keep away from words designed for local consumption.

President Mubarak also stressed the need for the peace process to be distant from "oneupmanships" that affect the public in the entire region and undermine confidence in this process about which we are concerned.

President Mubarak reviewed the recent efforts to deal with the obstacles blocking the peace process on various tracks, referring to the recent quadripartite meeting between Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine in Amman on the Palestinian evacuees. He also referred to his scheduled meeting this evening with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Sharif said that at the expanded meeting, President Mubarak reviewed various aspects of Egyptian-Japanese cooperation on the occasion of his visit to Tokyo scheduled to begin the day after tomorrow, Monday.

Al-Sharif added that the president discussed coordination and cooperation between Egypt and Japan on political and economic levels, in addition to the technical cooperation in education, culture, and media. President Mubarak reviewed projects being implemented by Japan under cooperation agreements between the two countries. These projects include the Martyr Ahmad Hamdi tunnel under the Suez Canal, drinking water and sewage

projects in al-Munib area, al-Jizah Governorate, and the development of al-'Amiriyah water plant in Cairo.

The conferees also previewed topics that the ministers who will accompany President Mubarak on his Tokyo visit will discuss with their Japanese counterparts, such as the organic fertilizers project, the funding and building of al-Lahun barrages at Bahr Yusuf in al-Fayyum, projects to boost the production of wheat, and other crops such as rice, and new projects to expand the Abu al-Rish children hospital in Cairo.

On the domestic front, the information minister said President Mubarak reviewed the various work stages of building alternative villages for those damaged by flood in Upper Egypt.

The report that Mubarak discussed clarified that 40-75 percent of the work has been implemented and that individual houses are being built and will not be handed over until April. The report indicated that the eight villages being built by the armed forces will be completed on 1 May.

The report said the site of the largest group of these villages being financed by Kuwait and some investors has been designated. It is the 'Abd-al-Qadir complex in the Qina Governorate that is under construction with a \$ five-million aid from Kuwait. It is the largest complex and comprises 570 houses. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Discusses Various Issues With Japanese Media

Statement to Japanese News Agency

NC1103155795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stressed that the presence of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is an obstacle to the peace process. He once again called on Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

In a statement to a Japanese news agency on the occasion of his upcoming visit to Tokyo, President Mubarak said Egypt is not demanding that Israel immediately sign the NPT, but it should publicly pledge to sign the treaty in the future. President Mubarak expressed his belief that Israel can be given a three-year period to decide its position on joining the NPT.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt has no intention of leaving the NPT. He said: Since we are endeavoring to achieve peace in the region and seeking to remove weapons of mass destruction, it is natural for Israel to sign the treaty. He added: We realize that Israel will not respond to these demands now, but it has to declare publicly that it will join the treaty after three years. He pointed out that Egyptian national security is threatened by Israel's nuclear weapons.

President Mubarak said: It seems Israel is willing to reveal only one part of its nuclear facilities, but we cannot consider this to be fair, so we are demanding international inspection of all Israeli nuclear facilities.

Interview With NIHON KEIZAI Daily

NC1203141195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo, 12 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reemphasized the need to clear the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction, urging that all the region's countries join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

In an interview published by the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI, Mubarak said that one country's exclusive possession of nuclear arms in this region adversely affects the balance of power. He affirmed that a balance of power is necessary for the Middle East's stability and security.

President Mubarak warned that delays in implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington in September 1993 might cause the Middle East peace process to collapse. He pointed out that if the peace negotiations stumble, there will be further violence by extremist groups.

Stressing that the Palestinian issue is the region's major problem, he urged that a solution be found for it.

President Mubarak called for the timely establishment of "mutual peace" in the region, noting that Israel's delay in making peace with the Palestinians will make Syria distrust Israeli promises.

His excellency asserted that failing to make peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will have adverse effects.

President Mubarak appealed to all countries to extend aid to the Palestinian Authority, explaining that the delay of this aid has caused anxiety. He urged Japan to offer aid to the Middle East in order to boost the peace operation there.

He said that he explained to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat the urgency of drawing up development plans for the Palestinian territories so that the donor countries can study these plans and help him to implement them.

Mubarak referred to Egypt's plan to build a bridge over the Suez Canal to link Egypt with Israel, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, and the Gulf via Sinai. He urged Japan to cooperate with Egypt in building this bridge.

Commenting on Egyptian-U.S. relations, President Mubarak said: Just as we cooperated with the United States during the second Gulf war, we will continue this relationship for the two countries' benefit.

Asked about Egypt's economic achievements, President Mubarak announced: In a short time we succeeded in reducing inflation to 7 percent and we were also able to lower the budget deficit.

He explained that Egypt views the population issue as a major problem and is trying hard to solve it.

Commenting on President Mubarak's remarks that Egypt will not put its signature on the NPT's extension unless Israel joins the treaty, NIHON KEIZAI noted that the Egyptian stance on this issue is very important to the Arab world and other developing countries.

The Japanese newspaper added: Although Jordan and the PLO have made positive steps on the road to peace, President Mubarak's criticisms of Israel are finding considerable echo in the Arab world, a region still dreaming of unity.

The Japanese newspaper explained that the fact that Iraqi nuclear installations are subjected to rigorous inspection while Israeli installations are not subjected to any kind of inspection has caused dismay in the Arab world.

Noting that the Palestinian Authority and Israel have declared their intention of resuming the talks over expanding the area of Palestinian self-rule by July 1995, the Japanese newspaper also referred to Egypt's strongly worded call to hasten this expansion in order to prevent the collapse of the peace process.

Interview With ASAHI Daily

NC1203142195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo, 12 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that in light of the peaceful coexistence that we have achieved it would be difficult to accept Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. In an interview with the Japanese newspaper ASAHI, he said that we are working to remove all weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. He stressed the need for Israel to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and accept international inspection as the Arab countries have done.

President Mubarak said that we are not demanding that Israel immediately join the NPT or immediately remove its nuclear installations, but Israel must declare a timetable after which to join the NPT. He stressed that there are no differences between Egypt and the United States over the NPT, noting that the United States understands well our views of and stance on this issue.

On the Palestinian self-government, President Mubarak said that the main problem lies in the delay in transferring the rest of the self-government powers to the Palestinians and the Palestinian elections agreed upon in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the self-government. He said that in order to overcome the current stalemate Israel must withdraw from the Palestinian areas in the West Bank of the Jordan River and then the Palestinians will be able for the first time to hold their own elections. He stressed the need to go ahead with the peace process and not to back away from it. He warned that if the stalemate continues it will strengthen the extremists who

are opposed to peace. He pointed out that unless progress is made in the peace process on the Palestinian track, difficulties will surround the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

President Mubarak noted that there were only 48 Israeli settlements in the occupied territories when the Camp David Accords were signed in 1978, but now the number has risen to 1,800 settlements. He stressed that the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements are an obstacle in the way of peace and he called for stopping the construction of settlements.

Regarding the Syrian-Israeli peace track, President Mubarak stressed that as long as Israel fails to withdraw from the Golan Heights there will be no peace and that Syria will not accept less than "total Israeli withdrawal."

On inter-Arab relations, President Mubarak said that since he assumed power in Egypt he has sought to achieve Arab solidarity, noting that this solidarity suffered a setback as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. He said: "It is difficult to convene a comprehensive Arab summit attended by all Arab countries, noting that holding such a summit might provoke disputes because of differing positions."

Regarding the cancellation of economic sanctions on Iraq, President Mubarak said that the international community supports the UN Security Council's resolutions on the sanctions imposed on Iraq, noting that the Iraqi people are the real victims of these sanctions. He said that the Iraqi people are starving and lack medicines and so a solution must be found to this problem.

On acts of terrorism, President Mubarak said that terrorism is a phenomenon prevailing in all parts of the world and that Egypt is not alone in facing this problem.

On Egyptian-Japanese relations, President Mubarak said that Japan is a friendly country and that Egypt supports Japan's request to obtain a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. He noted that we expect good results from the Japanese aid to build a bridge over the Suez Canal. He said that this bridge will be important as it will link Africa and Asia. He said that Japan's participation in building this bridge will be a symbol of Japan's role in backing the peace process in the region.

Mubarak Leaves for Abu Dhabi En Route To Japan

NC1203082995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for the United Arab Emirates [UAE] en route to Japan. During his official 4-day visit to Japan, President Mubarak will hold important talks with the Japanese officials on bilateral cooperation and regional and international issues of common interest.

President Mubarak will spend a few hours in Abu Dhabi, where he will hold talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuwayyan on the current regional and international issues. President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation comprising Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Business Sector Minister Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of international cooperation; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the presidential court; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs.

Delegations from the General Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, the Egyptian Federation of Industries, and the Egyptian Businessmen Association are scheduled to take part in the economic talks to be held with the Japanese officials on the sideline of President Mubarak's visit to Tokyo.

Musa, U.S. Envoy Discuss Christopher's Tour

NC1103165595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT
11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker.

'Amr Musa stated that the U.S. ambassador briefed him on some of the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of a number of countries in the region.

On President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington during the first week of April, 'Amr Musa said that there is no intention to convene a tripartite or quadripartite summit during the visit, as some newspapers have been reporting. He clarified that this issue has thus far not been proposed.

The U.S. ambassador said after the meeting that they had discussed all topics relating to U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Egypt on Saturday [18 March].

He said that the technological cooperation agreement between Egypt and the United States will be signed during the visit. Discussion will also focus on ways to bolster relations between the two countries and agreement on a number of joint projects to develop and support these relations.

Minister: Government Completely Controls Upper Egypt

NC1203173595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has confirmed that the security authorities have managed to exercise complete control of the situation in Upper Egypt and that there are no more signs of terrorist operations or incidents there.

In statements today after a tour during which he opened several police projects, the interior minister said the security agencies are able at any time to foil any attempt by these terrorists to undermine stability.

He added that the security agencies sometimes get help from the Defense Ministry in penetrating difficult areas, noting that the Ministry is preparing a force of air police to carry out such hard missions.

He said the new traffic law will be implemented soon after passage by the People's Assembly and that law will substantially help in controlling Egypt's streets.

Advisory Committee on NPT Holds Meeting

NC1203173695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—The Advisory Committee tasked with determining Egypt's stand on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) held its fourth meeting today. It was chaired by Dr. Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Consultative Council.

At its meeting, the committee continued examining a number of documents, studies, and reports compiled by the Foreign Ministry and specialized centers. It also examined various alternatives available based on Egyptian foreign policy principles, legal provisions, and the stands of the Arab countries and various other world countries on extending the NPT and the period of its extension.

The committee is scheduled to hold a fifth meeting tomorrow, Monday, to prepare a detailed report to be submitted to President Hosni Mubarak at the committee's second expanded meeting, due to be held after President Mubarak's return from his visit to Japan.

Israel To Join in Cairo International Fair

NC1203091695 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian Government has agreed to Israel's participation in the Cairo International Fair after an 8-year absence. The fair will be held for a week between 18-24 March. Thirty Arab and foreign states will be represented at the fair this year.

Libya

Political Editor Denounces VOA Rights Report

LD1203202495 Tripoli JANA in English 1851 GMT
12 Mar 95

[Punctuation throughout item as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Rabia [March] 12 JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The CIA's radio station known as "Voice of America" [VOA] began to repeat the same claims and lies being spread by the official American official circles including the State Department.

The radio, infamous for broadcasting malicious lies and claims against peoples, renewed its blatant hostile campaign against the Libyan Arab people as it reviewed the so called the State Department annual report containing a host of misleading claims and allegations on what it described as human rights in Libya.

JANA's political editor commented on this on Friday [10 March]. The editor said 'The American Government should be the last party to speak about human rights for its record is full of terrorist practices inside America itself where the dignity and basic human rights of the American individual are being violated. The American national is being subjected to the worse forms of torture, persecution, assassination, repressed by police services which use the most sophisticated means of usurping liberties and spying on the individual's private matters.

The editor added 'We are not surprised that this radio is repeating these claims against the Great Jamahiriyyah which is steadfastly and daringly against the plots and schemes of the American Government against the Arab nation and the peoples fighting and rejecting the American policy of domination everywhere in the world.

The editor stressed 'What the colonialist organs of propaganda ignore is that genuine democracy is being implemented in Libya where power is enjoyed by all people through the People's Congresses and Committees and that the Libyans are the only people who had promulgated the greater Green Charter of Human Rights and which has been circulated as an important document at the U.N. Also the Libyan Arab people set up al-Qadhdhafi international prize for human rights which was awarded to the red Indians in the Americas.

The editor wondered about the nature of human rights alleged by the Americans and who gave America the right to speak on behalf of peoples regarding human rights while America is the biggest violator of human rights in the world as a result of the host of continued acts of aggression violating human rights throughout the world by interfering the affairs of other states to the point of invasion and aggression, kidnapping foreign leaders and practicing the worse kind of spying as part of the American plots against peoples aspiring for freedom and dignity on earth and under the sun.

Memorandum Notes 'Negative Effects' of Sanctions

LD1103183095 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT
11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen, Mar 11 (JANA)—The Libyan Arab local associations asserted that the unjust measures imposed on the great Jamahiriyyah through the so called Security Council had negative effects on the development projects

In a memorandum to the international conference on social development being held in Copenhagen, the

Libyan Arab local associations said that the measures were unjustified and contrary to all international laws and conventions.

The memorandum referred to the negative effects on the health service for children and hindering the visits of international doctors to the great Jamahiriya to treat difficult cases or participate in testing university students.

Also, the measures led to shortages of medical equipments and medicines and other medical requirements.

The Libyan Arab local associations called for the need to draw up an international rule banning collective punishment, threat of starvation and blockade and to lift the unjust measures imposed by the so called Security Council on the great Jamahiriya.

Arab Workers To Be Laid Off

NC1203190995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Libya threatened today to expel all Arab workers from its territory if the international sanctions against it continue. 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, told MBC that this is a necessary measure because of the shrinking job market in Libya. On another issue, al-Muntasir explained that although Libya has refused to assume the presidency of the Arab Maghreb Union, it is not planning to withdraw as a member.

[Begin al-Muntasir recording] This will affect the Libyan masses and our neighbors too. You know that we have a very large non-Libyan work force. Arab—we do not call them foreign—workers are more than half the Libyan population—about 2.5 million people. They come from Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Niger, and Mali. If we are forced to lay off these 2.5 million workers, this means we will be exporting problems to countries that are already suffering from unemployment, particularly Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and Chad. When we add 2.5 million unemployed people, this will cause problem for them. [end recording]

Envoy Discusses Lockerbie, NPT With Egypt's Musa

NC1103153595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Libyan envoy 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Following the meeting, al-'Ubaydi said that he and Musa had discussed a number of Arab issues in preparation for the coming meeting of the Arab League Ministerial

Council and the seven-member committee in charge of the Libyan crisis, which will meet on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting.

The Libyan envoy said that they discussed developments in the Lockerbie issue, pointing out that new information and facts indicate that the two citizens implicated in the case have nothing to do with it. He added that this information has started to appear in Arab and American circles and needs to be considered at the Arab League and by the seven-member committee in order to take the necessary steps.

The Libyan envoy pointed out that Libya supports the Egyptian position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, since it is illogical to expect the Arab states, who have no nuclear weapons, to sign the treaty while Israel, which has a nuclear arsenal, refuses to sign. He added that pan-Arab peace and security require a balance between the Arab states and Israel so that peace can be achieved.

Al-'Ubaydi said that Pan-Arab security is an indivisible whole, that peace should be based on justice, and that no state should be exempted from the treaty, because this contradicts international law.

Al-'Ubaydi appealed to the Arab states to work together to achieve Arab reconciliation to enable the nation to face the serious challenges and restore its legitimate rights.

Al-'Ubaydi concluded that Libya always follows whichever course promotes Arab solidarity, particularly the resolution of the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute. He remarked that Libya is careful to avert any tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Morocco

Filali, Officials Receive Iran's Larijani

LD1103140195 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March, 11, IRNA—Maghreb [as received] Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Abdelatif Filali in a meeting in Rabat Friday [10 March] with Iranian Majles foreign policy commission member, Mohammad Javad Larijani said Iran has as important role in the international scene and the Islamic world.

"We believe this role can have an important impact on stability in the Persian Gulf and serve the interests of the Muslim world," Filali added, according to the public relations office of the Majles.

Western statesmen, he said, either do not understand the issues of the Islamic world or they think of their own interests only.

Larijani who is visiting Maghreb at the head of a high-ranking delegation, said dangerous policies are pursued in order to dominate Israel over the Islamic world.

"Western countries have taken irrational positions under the pretext of struggle against fundamentalism," Larijani added.

Filali replied that portraying an ugly image of Islam before the people of Europe is not justifiable and this issue should be placed on the agenda of the organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

He expressed satisfaction with the present level of Iran-Maghreb ties but said they should be further strengthened.

The expansion of Tehran-Rabat ties should take place in all dimensions and talks and political consultations between the two countries should increase.

Larijani also met with King Hassan's senior advisor, Abdelhadi Bu-Taleb [name as received] Friday and reviewed parliamentary cooperation.

Larijani, the deputy chief of the Majles foreign policy commission also discussed with Bu-Taleb the latest developments in the world of Islam.

Stressing the major role which can be played by the two Muslim states to create further unity among Islamic countries and to solve problems of the world of Islam, the two underlined the expansion of bilateral relations.

Referring to his country's rotating OIC chairmanship, the Maghreb official announced support for formation of a parliament of Islamic countries.

King Hassan Leaves on U.S. State Visit

LD1203134995 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect and preserve him, left Sale Airport in Rabat for the United States of America on a state visit a short time ago. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

***LTDH Seeks To Renew Dialogue With Regime**

95AF0050B Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Feb 95 p 9

[Article by Moncef Mahroug: "Human Rights: Easing of Tension"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although very difficult for the past several months, relations between the government and the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH) are beginning to grow less tense. The president of the republic, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, responded on 24 January to the greetings sent to him by the League's president, attorney Taoufik Bouderbala. On the same day, a cabinet reshuffle including a change at the head of the Ministry of Interior was announced.

Whether coincidental or not, those two events were interpreted by the LTDH as signaling a thaw. The thaw was confirmed the next day, when Slaheddine Jouchi, vice president of the LTDH, was summoned to the Ministry of Interior. The purpose: to return his passport, which had been confiscated upon his return from Beirut last October. Slaheddine Jouchi, editor in chief of the weekly newspaper REALITES, had been in the Lebanese capital attending a seminar that included the participation of two Tunisian opponents (Mohamed Mzali, former prime minister, and Rached Ghannouchi, head of the unrecognized Islamic party al-Nahdah.

Receiving a courteous welcome at the Ministry of Interior, Jouchi was informed that Messaoud Ech-Chebbi, a Ba'thist attorney, would also have his passport returned to him and that "this is only a beginning." (Other government opponents have also had their passports lifted.)

Encouraged by those gestures, the League's executive committee is openly expressing its satisfaction. A letter of thanks will be sent to the new minister of interior, Mohamed Jegham. It will include a hope: that dialogue will be resumed.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Officials on GCC-U.S. Dialogue
*LD1003115795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0712 GMT
10 Mar 95*

[Report by correspondent Faysal al-Zayd]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 10 Mar—The [first] round of the joint U.S.-GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] dialogue will be concluded today. The dialogue is aimed at strengthening the trade and economic ties between the GCC and the United States.

The GCC team which has been taking part in the meetings of the first session praised the atmosphere that prevailed at this session. A large number of officials and specialists from the State Department have been taking part in this dialogue.

Saudi Foreign Ministry undersecretary Ma'mun Kurdi, leader of the GCC delegation, told KUNA that the subjects raised at the dialogue meetings ranged between political and trade and economic matters. Ma'mun Kurdi said that the participants discussed trade matters and matters concerning copyright and questions relating to energy. He explained that the American side at the dialogue session raised a number of matters including the individual's copyright, information concerning the peace process in the Middle East area, ways of helping the Palestinians in Gaza, the regional economic cooperation, and the progress of the multilateral talks. He described the dialogue sessions as having been dominated by a cordial, positive atmosphere and mutual frankness.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry undersecretary for economic and social affairs Ma'mun Kurdi confirmed that there was complete coordination between the GCC states on all the matters that were raised by the American side at the dialogue session.

At the end of his statement to KUNA Ma'mun Kurdi said that the two GCC and American sides will, at their meeting today, continue the talks about investment issues and ways of developing and bolstering them for the benefit of the two sides. On the other hand, the leader of the Kuwaiti side, Mustafa al-Mali, assistant undersecretary for economic affairs at the Ministry of Finance, praised the results which will be realized from such meetings.

In a special statement to KUNA he said that both sides put forward their point of view on the matters raised at the dialogue, and he explained that the subjects raised dealt in detail with technical issues, energy, current trade matters between GCC member states and the United States. He added that the GCC team brought with them common ideas and identical viewpoints on all the subjects put forward for debate. He noted that there was a meeting between members of the GCC team, held in Riyadh at the end of January. At that meeting agreement was reached over all the matters that concerned the bases of cooperation between the GCC and the United States.

Mustafa al-Mali said: "We listened to a detailed explanation from the American side about the joint peace process between the Arab sides and Israel." Mustafa al-Mali told the American officials that the GCC states have been stressing the need to strengthen and increase the economic relations between the GCC member states and the United States and the reflection of this on the peace process and through it—on the security of all the states of the Middle East region.

The Kuwaiti delegation includes five members from the ministries of finance, commerce, and oil. They are: Mustafa al-Mali, leader, and Badr al-Manis, Nasir al-Ruways, Ghazi 'Abd-al-Jalil, and Ahmad al-'Asfur—members.

The economic administration at the State Department has been taking care of organizing the GCC-U.S. dialogue which is aimed at strengthening understanding and improving the trade policies between the United States and the GCC six member states which are: Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, and the Sultanate of Oman.

An American businessmen's committee, the National Council for American-Arab relations, the American-Arab Chamber of Commerce, and the Committee on American-Gulf Cooperation, played host to a reception last night attended by the leaders and members of the GCC delegation and officials from the American departments of state, commerce, and the treasury.

GCC Foreign Ministers Meet With Christopher
*LD1203105195 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000
GMT 12 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah—The foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states are having a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who arrived in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, before noon today.

The meeting is scheduled to deal with the development of conditions in the Gulf and Middle East areas as well as the state of relations between the GCC and the United States.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister arrived in Jeddah last night heading the State of Kuwait's delegation, which will take part in this meeting.

Secretary General Reads GCC Statement
*LD1203205295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Mar 95*

[Statement by the GCC foreign ministers following talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jeddah on 12 March; read by GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states conferred with U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher on 12 March 1995 A.D. in the city of Jeddah.

The participants stressed their mutual commitment to security in the Gulf region, including the freedom of navigation in its international waterways.

The ministers have called on Iraq to fully implement all relative resolutions of the Security Council, particularly those concerning the issue of the Kuwaiti and other POW's and detainees in Iraq and urged him to resist any amendment to the sanctions order until Iraq fully complies with all its commitments.

The ministers have expressed their concern over the humanitarian condition in Iraq and stressed the importance of the Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which were specially formulated to deal with the needs of the civilian population in Iraq. Iraq's refusal to make use of those two resolutions is the primary cause for the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The ministers demand that Iraq implement the two resolutions, 706 and 712, and urge Iraq again to show interest in its citizens through the immediate implementation of those two resolutions.

The ministers expressed their deep appreciation for the efforts of the state of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] aimed at resolving the issue of the three occupied islands that belong to it—namely, Greater Tunb, Minor Tunb, and Abu Musa—with the Islamic Republic of Iran by peaceful means, urging the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the UAE initiative to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

His excellency the secretary of state offered a summary of the outcome of his recent visits to some capitals in the Middle East. The ministers of the GCC have expressed their firm support for the tour of Secretary Christopher, and they hailed the relentless efforts of the U.S. Administration to consolidate the peace process. They stressed the GCC's support for the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. The ministers considered those agreements as significant steps on the road of achieving the comprehensive peace.

The ministers stressed the importance of the early implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles and emphasized the importance of making progress in the negotiations between Israel and Syria and between Israel and Lebanon. They also emphasized the importance of the comprehensive peace and stressed their determination to work together to achieve this objective.

The ministers condemned all acts of violence and terrorism.

The ministers also discussed the Arab League boycott of Israel. The United States has welcomed the decision of the GCC Council to end the second and the third levels of the boycott, according to the Council's statement issued on 30 September 1994 and its diplomatic note addressed to the United States of America on 11 January 1995.

The United States expressed its satisfaction in connection with the preparedness of the member states to support any initiative within the framework of the Arab League and according to the statement of 30 September 1994. Thank you.

Foreign Ministers Depart Jeddah

*LD1203202595 Riyadh SPA in English 1932 GMT
12 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, March 12, SPA—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti first deputy premier and foreign minister, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, the UAE's [United Arab Emirates] state minister for foreign affairs and Shaykh Muhammed Bin-Mubarak al-Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister left Jeddah this evening after they took part in the joint meeting held by the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher earlier in the day.

They were seen off at the airport by Ambassador Salem Sunbol [name and title as received] and many senior officials.

Bahrain

Amir Confers With Russia's Posuvalyuk

*JN1203112295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1025 GMT
12 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received here today Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign minister, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

Posuvalyuk conveyed to Shaykh 'Isa greetings of Russian President Boris-Yeltsin and his wishes of further progress for Bahrain.

His highness the amir hailed relations between the two friendly countries. Discussions dealt with current developments in the region, the Middle East peace process, in addition to other issues of joint interest. Posuvalyuk briefed his highness the amir on the latest developments in Chechnya and the Russian position on this crisis.

The meeting was attended by Housing Minister Shaykh Khalid Bin- 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, and Russian Ambassador to Bahrain Aleksandr (Novojilov).

Prime Minister Meets Posuvalyuk

JN1203124295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, received in Manama today Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign minister, who is currently visiting Bahrain.

Discussions dealt with a number of regional issues, the Middle East peace process, and international developments of mutual interest.

Talks also dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing mutual cooperation. The Russian official briefed his highness the prime minister on developments in Chechnya. [passage omitted]

Oman

Official Talks Held With Iraqi Foreign Minister

JN1103184395 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television
Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A round of official talks was held this evening at the Foreign Ministry between the Omani side, headed by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and an Iraqi delegation, headed by His Excellency Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

The conferees discussed developments in the region, as well as the UN Security Council's forthcoming deliberations, which will start in New York the day after tomorrow, Monday, concerning the periodic review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq in accordance with the applicable UN Security Council resolutions, since Oman is a current member of the Security Council.

The session was attended on the Omani side by Ambassador Ahmad Bin-Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department; Ambassador 'Awad Bin-Badr al-Shanfari, head of the Ministry's UN Security Council Office; and Ambassador Marhun Bin-Ahmad al-Marhun, head of the Minister's Office Department.

On the Iraqi side, the session was attended by His Excellency Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, senior Foreign Ministry under secretary; His Excellency Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraq's ambassador to Jordan; His Excellency Hassan 'Abd-al-Majid al-Saffat, director of the Minister's Office; and Khalid al-Samarra'i, Iraq's ambassador to Oman.

His Excellency Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in the country this afternoon on an official visit to Oman that will last several days.

Upon arrival, his excellency told the Omani News Agency that he carries an oral message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from His Excellency Saddam

Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. His excellency said his working visit to Oman aims at exchanging views with the minister of state for foreign affairs on issues of mutual concern to the two brotherly countries.

His excellency the Iraqi foreign minister was received upon arrival by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, hosted a dinner banquet at Qasr al-Bustan Hotel this evening in honor of His Excellency Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and his delegation.

Al-Sahhaf Conveys Saddam Message

JN1203093795 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television
Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve him, has received a verbal message from His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. His Excellency Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf conveyed the message to His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for cabinet affairs, during a meeting this morning with his excellency the Iraqi minister and the accompanying delegation, who are currently on a visit to the sultanate.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and His Excellency Khalid al-Samarra'i, Iraqi ambassador to the sultanate.

The talks, during the meeting, dealt with a number of current regional and international issues.

Al-Sahhaf Notes Content of Talks, Departs

JN1203135995 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic
1300 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf left Muscat after a two-visit to the Sultanate. In a predeparture statement to the Omani News Agency, his excellency said that during his visit, he exchanged views on Iraq's implementation of the requirements of UN Security Council 687 and gave relevant details to the brothers in the Sultanate, given that the Sultanate is a UN Security Council member state. He also discussed a number of Arab and international issues of joint issues.

Qatar

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives in Doha for Talks

Bilateral, Arab Issues on Agenda

JN1003214295 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 2100 GMT
10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived in Doha

this evening on a visit to the State of Qatar [words indistinct]. He was received at Doha International Airport by His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister; Ambassador Ahmad Jasim (?al-Mulla), the chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and His Excellency Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Iraqi ambassador to Qatar.

His Excellency Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf praised relations between his country and the State of Qatar, adding that these relations are based on firm grounds of fraternity, mutual interests, and the desire to achieve future cooperation between the two countries.

In an exclusive statement to the Qatari News Agency tonight, the Iraqi foreign minister said that his visit comes at the invitation of His Excellency Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamid Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani to exchange views regarding bilateral and Arab issues, as well as issues of mutual interest.

The Iraqi foreign minister added: The visit is an opportunity to brief his excellency the foreign minister on the latest information, (?documents), and facts concerning Iraq's cooperation with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission so as to close this file and to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

His Excellency Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that after his visit to Qatar, he will visit the Sultanate of Oman.

Regarding the United States' stand (?to maintain) the sanctions on Iraq and the recent tour by Mrs. Madeleine Albright, the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, his excellency the Iraqi foreign minister said: If what has been reported in this regard is correct, it will be considered clear testimony on the United States' desire to pressure the UN Security Council members.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf urged the UN Security Council permanent member states to respect the principles of international law [words indistinct].

His excellency the Iraqi minister stressed that the Special Commission charged with supervising the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has completed its mission and that the blockade imposed on Iraq must now be lifted.

His Excellency Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf praised the statements made by His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, Dubai's heir apparent and the United Arab Emirates defense minister, in which he called for reactivating Arab solidarity. In this regard, his excellency noted Qatar's distinguished role in enhancing Arab solidarity. He strongly denied that there was any cooperation or rapprochement between Iraq and Israel.

Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart

JN1103170395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT
11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 11 Mar (INA)—[Iraqi] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met in

Doha today with Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani.

They discussed a number of issues of common concern, developments in the region, and relations between the two brotherly countries and means to enhance them.

During the meeting, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf reviewed the steps that Iraq has taken to implement the UN Security Council resolutions that will lead to lifting the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

The foreign minister arrived in Doha yesterday on a visit of several days to Qatar.

Foreign Minister 'Puzzled' by Continued Sanctions

NC1103220295 Paris AFP in English 2116 GMT
11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, March 11 (AFP)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin Jasim Al Thani said Saturday [11 March] he was "puzzled" by the continuation of crippling UN sanctions against Iraq.

Al Thani said at a joint press conference with his Iraqi counterpart Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf that Qatar "respects UN Security Council resolutions but deplores, mainly for humanitarian reasons, the embargo which affects the Iraqi people."

"We want to know what exactly is still being asked of Iraq," said Al Thani, quoted by the official agency QNA. "We are puzzled about certain issues."

"Certainly we agree that Iraq must meet certain clauses but there are issues which require clarification."

The Qatari minister was referring implicitly to strong U.S. opposition to any easing of the sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Russia and France have spearheaded calls for the embargo to be ended or eased, but the U.S. has threatened to use its veto to block any such moves within the Security Council.

Al Thani also called for an end to Arab rifts caused by the invasion of Kuwait and 1991 Gulf War which ended the Iraqi occupation. "Unless peace is rapidly restored, the region remains exposed to harmful consequences which we can no longer bear," he said.

Al-Sahhaf said Iraq had complied with all UN resolutions for the lifting of the oil and trade embargo, which is due to be reviewed on Monday.

However he refused to predict a date for an end to sanctions. "The issue depends on the serious negotiations planned for April at the Security Council on the application" of UN Resolution 687, he said.

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Resolution 687 provides for a lifting of the oil embargo once Iraq has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction and a long-term monitoring system of its arms programmes is in place.

UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus is to present to the Security Council a report on Iraq's progress on disarmament on April 10.

Al-Sahhaf also hailed his country's "exemplary" relations with Qatar and said Baghdad would "work for better ties with all brother (countries) without exception."

Al-Sahhaf, who left here Saturday for Oman, is on the first visit by a senior Iraqi official to member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) since the Gulf War.

He met earlier with Qatar's Crown Prince and Defence Minister Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani as well as his Qatari counterpart.

Qatar and Oman are the only countries in the GCC, which also includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, to have maintained good relations with Iraq at ambassador level since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives U.S. Secretary of State Christopher

LD1203214095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2059 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 12 Mar—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the delegation accompanying him at his office at al-Salam palace today.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, the foreign minister; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education; and Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the cabinet, and acting information minister. It was also attended by Raymond Mabus, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

Christopher Departs Jeddah

LD1203221795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2208 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 12 Mar—Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this evening.

He was seen off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by the his royal highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal,

the Saudi foreign minister; Foreign Ministry Ambassador Salim Sunbul; the director general of the Foreign Ministry department in the region, and Raymond Mabus, the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives UK's Douglas Hurd

JN1303114195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT
13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, received Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, in Abu Dhabi today.

They reviewed the situation in the Gulf region, a number of regional and international issues of joint interest, and means of promoting joint cooperation between the two countries.

Government Calls For Hike in Gas Prices

NC1303155895 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT
13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, March 13 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) called Monday [13 March] for a rise in gas prices, saying current low levels could force producers to concentrate on development of oil and cut gas supplies.

It made the warning at a major gas conference in Doha, where nearly 700 representatives of regional and international energy firms have gathered to discuss future gas supplies from the Middle East.

Hasan al-Marzuki, products and gas sales at the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), told participants that gas demand was forecast to grow fast because it is preferred as a cleaner source of energy.

But he added: "From the point of view of the producer, the price received for the product has to justify the high financial investment required.

"The economics have to be very carefully evaluated and if current prices were to persist, the best use of gas for some holders of gas reserves may be for the enhancement of crude oil production and for local petrochemical projects rather than export as gas."

He warned that in the long term, the "ample supplies of gas which are available for buyers today will diminish if the price is insufficient to encourage and justify investment for development."

His warning, the first by a Gulf official, came amid plans by the UAE and other Gulf oil producers to tap their massive natural gas reserves.

The UAE itself has just completed a project to double the output capacity of its Das gas liquefaction plant to meet

the needs of its Japanese clients. It has also been involved in another ambitious project to exploit its offshore gas fields, among the biggest in the world.

Oman also plans a multi-billion-dollar liquefaction project to utilise its gas wealth following major discoveries.

The biggest liquefaction project is being carried out in Qatar, where more than 10 billion dollars will be spent in the next few years to produce up to 17 million tonnes of liquefied gas per year.

Qatar's gas reserves of around 7.5 trillion cubic metres (250 trillion cubic feet), the third largest in the world, and those of the UAE of around 5.7 trillion cubic metres (190 trillion cubic feet), account for more than nine percent of the world's total natural gas reserves.

Both countries, along with Saudi Arabia and other states in the region, have already spent billions of dollars to boost their oil production capacity, which is currently estimated at around 15 million barrels per day.

Regime Said Taking Measures Against Possible Coups

NC1003170595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The opposition Iraqi Islamic Reconciliation Movement has announced that the ruling regime in Baghdad has divided the capital into eight security zones in a desperate attempt to control security if any coup attempts are made. In a statement issued in Damascus last night, the movement said the Baghdad regime set up observation units on the main roads and in the squares and roadblocks on the roads leading to the governorates. The statement noted that there is violent fighting in south Iraq, particularly in the outskirts of al-'Amarah and al-Basrah, as well as rebellions in the ranks of the Baghdad regime's forces. Kuwait radio said in its newscast this afternoon that the opposition Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in north Iraq, affirmed that 19 civilians were killed or wounded in the Iraqi regime artillery's bestial shelling of the Kurdish city of Kifri. Kuwait radio added that the PUK, in a statement it issued this morning, said the Iraqi shelling also destroyed scores of houses and prompted hundreds of people to flee the city. Kuwait radio also said that the PUK, which has since last week been waging battles against the Baghdad regime's forces that are shelling the Kurdish areas, called on the international community to take the necessary measures to stop the bestial shelling of the city of Kifri.

Coup Attempt Rumored

NC1103154895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The city of Baghdad and its suburbs witnessed a series of transfers within the ranks of tyrant Saddam's troops in the past few days. Meanwhile, units of the special security forces were deployed along sensitive points in the capital, Baghdad.

According to our sources, the citizens are talking about a coup attempt conducted by high-ranking officers. Other reports indicate that in the past few days there were clashes inside the Republican Palace, where tyrant Saddam resides. The reports say that the areas surrounding the Republican Palace, the Ministry of Defense, radio and television building, and a number of security headquarters have been put under heavy guard by the emergency and special security forces, who are preventing people from approaching these establishments.

A report by our sources indicates that in the past few days Republican Guards units were deployed at specific points around Baghdad and that vehicles carrying troops armed with machine guns are patrolling significant roads and sensitive areas where the regime's henchmen reside, particularly in the wake of a series of explosions in the areas of al-Karradah al-Sharqiyah and both ends of (al-Sarrafiyah) Bridge.

According to the same report, the regime has installed several checkpoints along the roads leading to Baghdad, in addition to the old checkpoints, reinforcing them with sophisticated weapons and radio equipment.

A report, citing inhabitants in Mosul, says that the regime moved a number of sophisticated devices from Karkuk air base to Tikrit air base in the past few days. The inhabitants say that the security situation in their city is very tense, almost explosive, particularly after the provocative practices pursued by the tyrant's security and intelligence organs. Those organs arrested large groups of the inhabitants, particularly army officers.

A report on living conditions confirms that citizens of Baghdad and the south are trying by all means possible to find food. The uncontrollable price hikes have led people in the poor areas of the capital to organize demonstrations and protests in front of shops, demanding that their needs be met. The security forces dispersed the demonstrators by force, arresting many of them.

Military Operations, Clashes Reported in North

PUK Claims Attack on Army Posts

NC1003160995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1536 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 0100 today, to abort the 'Aflaqist regime's plans to attack the town of Klar, a heroic force of the peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdistan Socialist Democratic Party, and the Islamic Movement of Fayli Kurds launched a series of attacks on the enemy's camps and positions in (Kuju and Tarablas). After six hours of heroic and furious fighting the brave Kurdistan peshmergas imposed their full control on all the enemy's military positions. They also took control of the (Kuju) and (Tarablas) areas and purged them of the fascist 'Aflaqists.

The treacherous enemy's losses were as follows:

1. The dictatorial regime lost several observation posts.
2. Three military vehicles were burned out.
3. All the contents of the enemy's positions were burned.
4. Four 120-mm mortars and four 82-mm mortar guns were destroyed.
5. Two 14.5-mm DSHK machine guns were destroyed.

Our peshmergas seized 100 Kalashnikov rifles, four RPG launchers, two RBK machine guns, one revolver, four radio sets, and one telephone set.

Seven soldiers from the artillery regiment of the 9th Brigade surrendered. [passage omitted]

Our sacrifice in this heroic epic was the martyrdom of hero peshmerga Kamal Zamawangi. Glory and immortality for hero-martyr Kamal and for all our martyrs.

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PUK: Offensive Kills 92 Iraqis

LD1103222495 Tehran IRNA in English 2202 GMT
11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj (Kurdistan prov.), March 11, IRNA—The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) announced here on Saturday [11 March] that its latest offensive against the positions of Iraqi Army around Kalija and Qarah Bulaq in eastern Karkuk led to death of 92 Iraqi troops.

The source close to PUK said that the offensive was launched Friday night during which the headquarters of Iraqi military forces in Kalija region was set afire.

PUK said that eight Iraqi officers and soldiers were also seized by the the joint forces of Kuridstan. All forces involved in the offensive returned to their bases safely, the PUK said.

The source put the casualty of the PUK as one peshmarga (fighter).

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Islamic Movement Party rejected that its forces took part in the offensive launched by the PUK.

The spokesman said that the the Islamic Movement Party of Kurdistan did not participate in any offensive carried recently by PUK or other allies.

PUK had said that it carried the offensive against Iraqi Army jointly by other Kurdish forces in northern Iraq.

Opposition Details Government Losses

NC1203160295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our sources in Iraqi Kurdistan, the tyrant Saddam's regime used two helicopters and two gliders [as heard] to bomb the (Karawet) area, the scene of earlier fierce clashes between Iraqi opposition and government forces on 8 and 9 March.

The sources report that the opposition forces launched a counteroffensive against the regime's forces on the Qush Tepa-Sherayah axis on the night of 8 March. They added that during the offensive the opposition seized the headquarters of a government regiment and six battalion headquarters, as well as nine redoubts.

They said that the opposition forces seized 16 heavy guns and 500 small arms of various types from the government forces.

According to the latest report from our sources in Iraqi Kurdistan, opposition forces occupied the town of Qadir Karam and the Chamchamal sector after routing two government regiments, taking several officers prisoner, and seizing quantities of armored vehicles, artillery pieces, and various light weapons.

Our sources confirm that the regime's forces suffered heavy losses in the (Kuwayr) sector, including the death

of a regimental commander and several other officers. The opposition took 140 government troops prisoner.

In these operations, the opposition forces seized seven vehicles, six heavy artillery pieces, six DShK machine guns, and some light weapons.

KDP Criticizes PUK Attack on Army Troops

LD1203163795 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., March, 12, IRNA—Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in a statement criticized its rival group Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) for its "untimely and willful" attacks on Iraqi Government forces. The PUK's attack was made at a time when the PUK has turned Iraqi Kurdistan into a turbulent and chaotic region and that other Kurdish groups had not prepared themselves for such attacks, the KDP-run radio said in a report monitored here Sunday [12 March].

The radio said that the attacks launched by PUK and its allied forces prompted Iraqi Government troops to heavily shell tens of villages in the region causing havoc and forcing their residents to flee their homes.

Iraqi troops have captured several check points between Ghosh Tapeh and Pardeh, the radio said.

Meanwhile, the PUK on Sunday accused the KDP of betraying PUK and its allied troops by shelling their positions while they were fighting Iraqi forces in Kalleh-Jeh area. [place names as received]

PUK Radio Rounds Up Battle Situation

NC1203171295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1617 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following is the final situation after battles that raged last evening between the Kurdistan peshmarga and the aggressive troops of the 'Aflaqite regime in the Governorate of Irbil:

To frustrate the enemy's plans, Kurdistan peshmarga forces launched a surprise attack against the fascist regime troops, which were massed up in the area of (Jabaja) near the Governorate of Irbil to commit further aggression against the capital of the Kurdistan region. Following a series of daring, heroic battles, Kurdish peshmarga, the heroes of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Independent Labor Party, inflicted heavy material and human losses on the enemy. The outcome of the battles was as follows:

A. More than 120 officers, soldiers, and noncommissioned officers were taken prisoner;

B. More than a 100 enemy troops, including a number of officers and noncommissioned officers, were killed. This includes two lieutenant colonels—the commander and deputy commander of Brigade 847—and a major, in addition to the brigade's intelligence officer.

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During the attack, commanded by Manghafur 'Uthman Dani Maghani, the 37th regiment led by Nuri Qadir, and the 38th special regiment led by 'Umar Nasir, our forces seized the following equipment:

1. Two 23-mm antiaircraft guns;
2. Nine military vehicles of various types;
3. Three pieces of radio equipment of type [word indistinct];
4. Dozens of pieces of other radio equipment of various types;
5. More than 350 Kalashnikovs, three BKG medium machine guns, a [word indistinct] rifle, several RPG launchers, and a telescope.

As far as our losses are concerned, three peshmerga fighters were martyred and others wounded.

The second attack our hero peshmergas launched was against an enemy tank battalion. The attack was launched by [names indistinct]. The enemy's losses were as follows:

1. Over 50 troops were taken prisoner.
2. Over 70 troops, including officers, soldiers, and non-commissioned officer's were killed. Among them were a number of majors and captains.

The equipment our forces seized in the second attack was as follows:

1. Over 18 130-mm guns;
2. Twenty-eight tanks, armored vehicles and cars of various types, most of which our forces could not evacuate; and,
3. 200 Kalashnikovs.

Our losses in this attack were three martyrs and a number of wounded peshmergas.

Hence, our total losses are six martyrs and a number of wounded. We will you keep you posted whenever developments occur.

It is worth noting that these heroic operations were under the direct supervision of [word indistinct] Kuthrat Rasul 'Ali, member of the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and prime minister of the Kurdistan region.

Glory and immortality to our innocent martyrs and speedy recovery for our wounded, God willing. Victory to our heroic forces and defeat and humiliation to the 'Aflaqite dictators.

Barzani Radio Reports Regime's Shelling

JN1203200495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source of our party's Makhmur local committee said that on the night of 11/12 March, the Baghdad dictatorial regime forces shelled the Safiyah, Khabatah, and Mulla 'Umar villages in the (?Shinanah) area. The random shelling injured two

people from the Mulla 'Umar village and inflicted damages on a number of houses in these villages.

This is the fourth time the regime has shelled the Khabatah area.

MENA Reports 'Vicious' Fighting

NC1303095595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (MENA)—Reports from the autonomous region in northern Iraq say that fierce clashes took place yesterday involving armed men from the Kurdish parties struggling for power there.

The reports said the fighting was centered in the city of Rawandoz near the border with Turkey and Iran, where vicious fighting erupted involving followers of the Mas'ud Barzani-led Kurdistan Democratic Party, which controls the city, and the Jalal Talabani-led Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The reports said Rawandoz came under artillery shelling by the Talabani group, which is deployed on hills around the city.

The reports added that many inhabitants fled the city as a result of the heavy shelling and that there is a shortage of basic foodstuffs because relief trucks are being looted. There is also a shortage of medicine and medical supplies.

The reports describe the situation in northern Iraq as deteriorating and dangerous. Fighting among Kurdish parties in northern Iraq erupted in late December, stopping and starting repeatedly since then.

PUK Accepts Request To Convene Parliament Meeting

NC1003170795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the memorandum submitted by the yellow bloc [al-kutlah al-safra'] to convene a meeting of the Kurdistan National Council, an official spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], stated the following:

1. We are ready to establish the atmosphere and provide the necessary requirements for convening a meeting of the parliament on condition that such a meeting convenes to solve the problems and establish peace and brotherhood.

2. We believe that the duty entrusted to the members of the parliament, who are elected by the people, is the honor of representing the masses at any time and place and under any circumstances. The members of the parliament must perform their duties away from restricted party views. In addition, we cannot accept the

excuse of difficulty of transportation and communication as a pretext for not attending the meeting and shunning their responsibilities.

SAIRI's al-Hakim Calls For 'Popular Revolution'

JN1003163695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 10 Mar (SANA)—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has called for reaching a unified strategy among the opposition and the sons of northern Iraq to topple the Iraqi regime. In a statement to AL-WATAN newspaper published today, al-Hakim warned of the consequences of a military coup to topple the regime, adding that a popular revolution will achieve better results. He said this will only be achieved by escalating the opposition and its unified efforts.

AL-WATAN also received reports from inside Iraq on the outbreak of large-scale demonstrations in various parts of Baghdad. Meanwhile, the paper adds, leaflets and slogans are written on walls calling on the head of the regime and his group to step down so as to give the UN Security Council an opportunity to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The reports noted that disturbances prevail in Iraq's cities, particularly in the southern part.

Barzani Receives Ba'th Delegation, SAIRI Official

JN1203204695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Salah al-Din—Our party leader, Mas'ud Barzani, received at his headquarters on 11 March the delegation of the Iraq command of the [opposition, based in Syria] Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The delegation is composed of Dr. Fadil al-Ansari and Muhammad Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, members of the Iraq command of the allied Ba'th Party. The delegation arrived on 10 March and held contacts with our party's Political Bureau and representatives of several Iraqi and Kurdistan parties.

The meeting was attended on our party's side by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, Dr. Roz Nuri Shawiz, and Fadil Mirani, members of the Political Bureau. The meeting lasted for 90 minutes during which the participants discussed the latest developments in Iraq and ways to promote the cordial bilateral relations and expand joint national action.

It is to be noted that the guest delegation is continuing its tours and meetings with various parties.

At 1000 on 12 March, Barzani received at his headquarters Hammam Hammudi, member of the Political

Bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] and the political adviser of his Eminence Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

Attending on our party's side Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, Dr. Roz Nuri Shawayh, and Fadil Mirani, members of the Political Bureau.

Discussions dealt with the latest Iraqi developments and bilateral relations.

At 1100 on 12 March, Barzani visited His Eminence Muhammad Bahr al-'Ulum, member of the presidential council of the unified Iraqi National Congress [INC], at the INC headquarters in Salah al-Din on the occasion of his eminence's arrival in Salah al-Din.

The meeting was attended by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Political Bureau and member of the INC executive Council.

Appeal Urges Iraqi Officers, Soldiers To Join Kurds

NC1003185495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1540 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Appeal addressed to the families of the Iraqi officers and soldiers; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] O honorable Iraqi families, O relatives, kinsfolk, and brethren of the officers and soldiers whom Saddam is embroiling in a furnace of new aggressive and losing battles to satisfy his morbid and insane whims and wishes. O sons of the honest Iraqi families in the ranks of the Army—officers, noncommissioned offices, and soldiers—whether in the frontlines or backlines of the battlefield: You are our dear brothers and your lives are dear to us. Your lives are cheap to Iraq's tyrant and war criminal Saddam Husayn. He is driving you into a new conflagration of death, using you to attack Kurdistan and bombard its towns and peaceful people.

O our honest and noble kinsfolk of Iraqi sons in the center and the south of Iraq: Tyrant Saddam is planning to launch an offensive on Kurdistan. A few days ago, he enmeshed your sons in the furnace of another losing battle in the frontlines of confrontation with your brother peshmerga. Some of the attackers turned into a fuel of a crushing battle. Others have joined the revolutionaries who are defending Kurdistan and the dignity of its people. We are not saying that they have been taken prisoners of war, because we consider them as our sons and brothers.

O noble Iraqi families: We appeal to you to prevent your sons and brothers from joining the ranks of the tyrant's Army. We appeal to you to advise them to leave Saddam's trenches either by deserting his Army or joining their brother peshmerga where they will be most welcome so that Saddam and his bloody and criminal regime may meet their inevitable black fate in punishment for the crimes of the 'Aslaqite clique against the

Iraqi people. May God bless all the honest and good people of the Mesopotamia.

Official: 'Desperate U.S. Attempts' Fail in North

JN1103130395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF], has conveyed leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the two allied parties—the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party [KRP]—and to the masses of our Kurdish people on the occasion of the 11 March Declaration and the issuance of the Autonomy Law. During a visit to the headquarters of the two parties and his meeting with KDP Secretary Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi; Ibrahim Tahir al-Salam, deputy secretary of the KRP Central Committee; and members of the two parties, comrade 'Abd-al-Ghafur stressed that what has been achieved through the Autonomy Law thanks to the wisdom of leader Mujahid Saddam Husayn will remain one of the historic achievements of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, which was spearheaded by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He said the autonomy experience serves as a model to be emulated by world nations.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghani touched on the situation in the northern part of the homeland and the agent elements' desecration of the dear national soil. He stressed the failure of the desperate U.S. attempts to push a group of those agents to [word indistinct] a part of the plot of continuing the unjust blockade by making them carry out abortive acts against our valiant forward units with the aim of affecting the fair voices in the world demanding an end to the blockade. He noted that such attempts have coincided with the approaching UN Security Council's review session of the blockade and its imminent lifting. He said the aggressors' hopes have been shattered and that their designs have been foiled.

He said: Our Kurdish people have proved their pride in national unity through their rallying around the unique leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn and their participation in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah battle [war against Iran] and the historic and immortal Mother of Battles. He added that the Autonomy Law has opened wide horizons for the children of our Kurdish people to effectively participate in the march of jihad and reconstruction in great Iraq.

The KDP and KRP officials and cadres expressed pride in the unique leadership of President Saddam Husayn. They reiterated the pledge to the leader of the victorious march and the engineer of the autonomy that they will remain faithful soldiers defending great Iraq and its national unity, security, and independence in yet another effort to bolster the lasting victory and abort all miserable colonialist, Zionist, and agent plots against the dear homeland.

Kurdish Groups Urged To Spurn U.S., Begin Talks

NC1103200595 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, March 11 (AFP)—Iraq on Saturday [11 March] launched a fresh appeal for feuding Kurdish factions to hold talks and rid themselves of U.S.-led allied protection.

"You have to seize this opportunity and free yourselves of the American grip," the official AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper told the Kurds, adding that "counting on the United States will lead to failure."

"After the sanctions are lifted you will no longer have a place in the country and your American allies will abandon you," the paper added.

The call came on the anniversary of a law adopted in 1974 granting self-rule to the provinces of Dohak, Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Kurds have controlled the region in defiance of Baghdad and set up their own parliament since launching an abortive rebellion after the January-February 1991 Gulf War. The Kurdish-held area is protected by an allied air force based in Turkey.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in January offered to hold dialogue with both the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which have been locked in a bitter power struggle for several months, but the offer was turned down.

Hundreds have died in the clashes and the PUK has accused Iraqi government troops of shelling the Kurdish-held area—a charge denied by Baghdad.

Iraq has been subject to a crippling international trade and oil embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Syria, Iran Reportedly Send Delegations to North

JN1203175895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati in London]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-HAYAH has learned from reliable sources in the Iraqi opposition that a four-member Syrian delegation arrived in northern Iraq yesterday. The Syrian delegation's visit coincides with a visit by a high-level Iranian delegation to this area, which is outside the control of Baghdad authorities.

The sources said the Syrian delegation's visit aims to "study the conditions in northern Iraq and to coordinate with the Unified Iraqi National Congress [INC] and the opposition leaders." The sources said the Iranian delegation is also holding contacts with the INC, which opposes Saddam Husayn's regime. [passage omitted]

Kurdish 'Power Struggle,' Situation in North Viewed

NC1103203995 Ankara *TURKISH DAILY NEWS* in English 8 Mar 95 p B1

["News analysis" by Rasit Gurdilek]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irbil—Flocks of sheep on lush pastures and tidy rows of tilled fields speak of hope and full bellies.

But for Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds living in their Western-protected safe haven in the north, the harvest is only more blood and hardship as their chiefs have cast aside all restraint in a blind power struggle.

In the Jumhuri Hospital in Irbil, seven-year-old Jiman 'Ali lay exhausted on a dirty bed, her mangled left foot a knot of flesh and bone.

As her aggrieved parents listened to a doctor explain that the gangrenous foot had to be amputated, her anxious eyes were fixed on the terror of every child—the shining needle on a morphine-filled syringe.

She was playing in the street with other children at the village of Shawes—north of Irbil and occupied by the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)—when a shell fired by rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) gunners surrounding the city landed amidst them.

"We were hoping she would be a doctor, a mamosta (teacher) or an engineer when she grew up; now what?" whimpered her mother, clad in black shrouds. She had seven other children to worry about.

Next door, six-year-old Muhammed Ahmad Mustafa lay in another bed with a ghastly cut on his thigh recently sewn up, a victim of the same shell. His father felt no great jubilation when the doctor said the wound was clean and his son would not be maimed.

He had also lost a daughter to the same deadly round which killed two children and injured four altogether.

Five hours' drive away in Zakho, on the Turkish border, Halide Muhammad tearfully embraced her daughter at the head of her husband's grave, one of some 70 mounds marked with pieces of wood in a freshly-dug plot at the town's cemetery. Her husband, father-in-law and uncle had died together as they were strolling in the market when a car bomb explosion wrecked the entire street on Feb. 27, the same day the KDP shell landed in Shawes. The bomb killed 76 people and wounded over 150. In the town hospital Hasan Kalo Osman, 56, with horribly burned hands and feet, was grieving over the death of his daughter-in-law. She was walking with him when the bomb ripped through the market. His son, a KDP peshmerga (fighter) fighting the PUK at the outskirts of Irbil, was not informed of his wife's death.

He could well be among those who were shelling Shawes. Infighting and civilian casualties have not been strangers

to Iraqi Kurds since they established their own administration after Saddam Husayn's Gulf War defeat in 1991.

To elicit more Western support for their administration which irritate their neighbors, the Iraqi Kurds elected a parliament the following year. But the election was marred by mutual charges of fraud and the doctoring of results in order to ensure an equal share of power for the two main parties, Mas'ud Barzani's KDP and Jalal Talabani's PUK. Kurds later formed the backbone of the U.S.-supported Iraqi National Congress (INC) which has representatives of Arab, Kurd and Turkmen groups who aim to replace Saddam's regime with a democratic Iraq in which the Kurds would enjoy federal rights.

But the Kurds have had to temper aspirations for a total break with Baghdad because of pressure from Turkey, on which they depend for their security—the Western air force protecting them against Saddam is based there—and vital supplies. The red-white-green Kurdish flag with a sun in the middle no longer flies atop official buildings, and shelved plans to draft a constitution.

Alternately employing threats or material rewards, Turkey is trying to persuade the KDP and PUK to pacify the Turkish Kurdish rebels entrenched in northern Iraq. To woo Ankara to their side, the warring Kurdish parties accuse the other side of supporting the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which is fighting a separatist war in southeastern Turkey.

Ankara also keeps a hand at the Iraqi Kurdish administration's throat, by alternately allowing or banning the traffic in cheap Iraqi diesel, the tax on which is the Kurds' chief revenue. While technically a breach of U.N. sanctions against Iraq, the West turns a blind eye to the trade in view of the Kurds' dependence upon it.

The KDP and PUK drew swords last May, and after a brief lull, resumed fierce fighting in December because revenues were quickly eaten away by their private armies and the divided bureaucracy.

The clashes have so far claimed hundreds of casualties on both sides.

The warring parties do not hide that the diesel tax is the main cause. The PUK accuses the KDP of withholding the revenues from hundreds of trucks shuttling daily between Turkey and Iraq with special side tanks filled with cheap diesel.

The KDP controls the oil route in the north while the PUK controls the more populous southern provinces.

For its part, the KDP blames the PUK's "military mentality and dictatorial tendencies."

"Their doctrine is to resort to arms whenever there is a difference with anybody. This puts their party almost on a terroristic plane," Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, a leading KDP official told the TDN [*TURKISH DAILY NEWS*] in Salah al-Din. 'Abd-Al-Halik Salam, the chief KDP

official in Zakho, was no better disposed towards their former government partners.

"We are not people who can accept dictatorship. If we were, we would go for Saddam Husayn, a top-drawer dictator, instead of his caricature."

The unprecedentedly strong invective traded between the rival leaders makes speedy normalization an unlikely prospect.

But Sa'di Ahmad Sira, the agriculture minister, wasn't so pessimistic. "Every conflict has a beginning and an end," he said stoically in the PUK headquarters in Irbil as Talabani and his aides unsuccessfully sought avenues for peace.

The 12-member government has disappeared, with its members confronting each other at the front lines as military commanders, headed by "prime minister" Khusrat Rasul, a top guerrilla chief for the PUK now defending Irbil.

Khusrat, confident of his ability to repel any KDP attack on the city, charged that Barzani's men were getting guns, shells and multi-barrel "Katyusha" rocket launchers from Iran, a claim hotly denied by the KDP officials.

In addition to Iran, alleged covert intervention or arms supplies by Turkey and the Baghdad governments are used as excuses for setbacks.

Khusrat put the total KDP strength at 25,000 peshmerga, and his own at 15,000, but the main battles are fought by elite "special forces." These peshmerga units are trained at the military academies each side has set up in its own areas. The rest make up a rag-tag army in which 60-year-old veterans of early battles against Iraq serve together with 14-year-olds, mostly for a monthly salary of between 150 dinar (about three dollars) and 1,500 dinar, according to the number of dependents. Kalashnikovs slung on their shoulders and dressed in beige tunics, baggy pants and sashes wrapped around their waists, they usually loll about in the cities, spending their meager income on food or cigarettes.

Many complain that they have not been paid for months.

The battle reports are often confused and contradictory. But it seems that both sides have touched raw nerves.

The KDP's occupation of Shaqlawah, a small town about 40 kilometers from Irbil which harbors important headquarters of the PUK as well as the house of Jalal Talabani, was a major blow and affront to the PUK.

PUK's subsequent seizure of Irbil has been equally unpalatable to the KDP. Being "kicked out" of the capital city was a psychological blow to the party which claims to be the driving spirit of the Kurdish autonomy movement for the past 49 years. In addition, the city and environs harbor about 1.5 million people, or roughly a third of the population of the Kurdish area, which,

added to al-Sulaymaniyah and Karkuk province, gives a big advantage to the PUK push for supremacy.

Finally, it is virtually a stone's throw (just 20 kilometers) from Salah al-Din, a resort town harboring the headquarters of KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani.

Determined to wrest the city from PUK, Barzani has moved the bulk of his troops from the Dahuk area to blockade the city on three sides, leaving only one supply line open to the PUK.

Fighting has died down in recent days, with the KDP appearing set to wait until the PUK war machine, drained of funds, collapses by itself, something Talabani says is a vain hope. But verbal bombardment is lively.

The leaders and officials of the two parties accuse each other of being thieves, terrorists, agents of Saddam or mercenaries of the Kurds' enemies. Barzani has publicly blamed the PUK for the Zakho car bomb explosion, and pledged vengeance. Karim Sinjari, the chief of the KDP secret police, said he now was busy catching the PUK bombers—instead of the ones sent by the Iraqi intelligence as in past years.

He said his men had recently foiled two other car-bombing attempts, arresting two men who had driven to Salah al-Din with cars packed with 150 kilos and 30 kilos of explosives respectively. "Khosrat is sending them," Sinjari said.

Surprisingly, life is little touched in Irbil and other cities despite occasional sounds of machine gun fire and the deep boom of Doshkas as the sides fire casual rounds to keep each other awake.

People, bitten by shortages of food, rocketing prices and the constant slide of the dinar are too preoccupied with their own battle of survival to care much for the fighting going around them.

Shopowners complain of little business while the racks look crammed with foodstuffs and utensils coming from Turkey or Iran. The average profit seemed to be around 2000 dinars (40 dollars) to be shared by large families averaging eight or nine members.

Agriculture Minister Sira, looking forward to a record harvest of wheat and a summer abundance of fruits and vegetables, said most city folk were surviving because of their links to the country-side.

The hardest hit are teachers and civil servants with fixed salaries as low as 250-300 dinars a month. The hills throughout northern Iraq are now marked with an ugly stubble of stumps—a forest consumed as firewood.

Both Sira and Sami 'Abd-Al-Rahman said Western aid was disappointing and was mostly relief assistance instead of much-needed cash and capital equipment for investments.

"It's the Kurds who are the main victim of the U.N. sanctions instead of Iraq," complained Sira.

The bulk of the relief supplies were provided last year by the Turkish Red Crescent, which distributed some \$14 million worth of foodstuffs, and targeted a similar sum this year while the staff-depleted U.N. agencies and private Western relief organizations focused on health and other areas.

But despite years of hardship and internal strife, the Iraq's Kurds were yet not ready to give up their freedom after decades of Iraqi secret police oppression and pogroms.

Even in private conversations there was no trace of yearning for the wealth and subsidies of past Iraqi rule.

Paper Assails Shalikhshvili 'Lies' About Kurds

JN1003203695 Baghdad AL-IRAQ in Arabic 1 Mar 95 pp 1, 6

[Editorial: "The Lies of the Ugly American Shalikhshvili"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of a feverish U.S. campaign to undermine Iraq and its steadfastness and to prolong the unfair blockade, U.S. officials who occupy political, diplomatic, and military posts have been making false and hypocritical statements. This cheap action is meant to deceive world public opinion and prevent it from seeing the facts as they are. It is also meant to put further pressure on the other international parties so as to confuse them and make them stop asking for the easing or lifting of the blockade since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward the Security Council.

In addition to the infamous tour of Albright, General John Shalikhshvili, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has joined the chorus of liars. In a program carried on CNN, Shalikhshvili recalled his trip after the 30-state aggression against Iraq in 1991. He described his suspect colonialist mission in terms of heroism, humanity, and concern about the Kurds.

Plainly and unabashedly this U.S. general—who contributed to the killing of women, children, and old people during the U.S. aggression against the people of Vietnam—is trying to tell the public in America and abroad that he was a messenger sent from heaven to save the Kurds from death and annihilation. This is what he said.

However, the plain truth cannot be shielded by a web of lies. Nor can the truth be concealed through fabricated comic acts—such as the incubators story, performed by the glamorous star Nirah al-Sabah. We tell this general—the son of the brute U.S. military establishment—that death, destruction, genocide, and tribulations have afflicted beloved Kurdistan in the wake of his infamous trip and ugly mission. Thus, killers, agents, thieves,

charlatans, impostors, spies, and bandits flocked to Kurdistan from all areas. They formed an odious and ostracized mixture in Kurdistan to sow death, destruction, and chaos under the law of the jungle. Consequently, Kurdistan has drowned in the blood of innocent people, the victims of Shalikhshvili's friends.

Kurdistan is now the same as the city of Chicago when gangs and thugs were in control of the city in the 20's and 30's. Thus, dozens of Al Capones, the notorious gangster, have appeared in Kurdistan to practice all kinds acts of murder, oppression, looting, and plundering, using more modern means of the late 20th century.

The fabrications of Shalikhshvili and Albright are cause for mockery and astonishment. The flagrant U.S. intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries, the tampering with the destiny of peoples, and the U.S. military invasions of lands in Asia, Africa, and Latin America were always on the pretext of humanitarian reasons and motives to give the impression to the world that such military moves and measures will end civil wars and bloody local conflicts. They always claim that such campaigns are for the sake of peace, security, and stability! They said so while they were destroying Korean and Vietnamese towns and killing their inhabitants. They said the same thing when they were dropping nuclear bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan. And they claimed this in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, and Haiti.

With the same devious, double-faced, and deceptive language, they are now talking about their concern for the lives and future of the Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Incidentally, we ask a simple question to the ugly American Shalikhshvili, who is shedding crocodile tears for the destiny of the Kurds. We ask him: Can he give any evidence on those he claims were killed in Kurdistan in 1991? Is it not logical for him to keep lists with full names and the place and reason of death? Is such a list not attractive? You are fond of lists and, especially, name lists—to the extent that 20 years after your defeat in Vietnam you present lists of the U.S. soldiers who went missing or were killed in the aggression against the Vietnamese people!

O lying general, we tell you: Many volumes are needed to keep the lists of those killed in Kurdistan since you arrived in the region and provided your protection and constant care to the murderers, criminals, and students of Al Capone. Kurdistan has not tasted tranquility, security, and stability since your agents took control and will never see this until you are kicked out of it.

Lastly, Kurdistan will return to what it was, and it and its citizens will live in dignity, prosperity, and harmony under autonomy and under the canopy of the beloved of all Iraqis, Saddam Husayn. Such a day is not far. The black cloud will definitely move from the skies of Kurdistan, and tomorrow is not far away for those who await it.

**Foreign Minister Says Qatar, Oman Visits
'Successful'**

JN1203155395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1436 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 12 Mar (INA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has described his visits to Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman as successful and important.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in the Jordanian capital, al-Sahhaf said the visit will contribute to opening new horizons for Iraq's relations with Qatar and Oman.

Al-Sahhaf said his visit to Qatar and Oman was a working political visit and a practical step that demonstrated the strong and cordial relations between Iraq and these two sisterly countries.

Al-Sahhaf said he held extensive talks with Qatari and Omani officials on the imposed blockade on Iraq and its effects on the Iraqi people.

Al-Sahhaf said he briefed officials in the two sisterly countries in detail about Iraq's full implementation of its obligations imposed in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution No. 687. He explained the legal interpretation of these resolutions and the sound implementation of the paragraphs outlining the obligations imposed on Iraq. He emphasized the facts about Iraq's implementation of these obligations.

The minister said that as a member of the Security Council, the Sultanate of Oman now has sufficient ground for taking a clear stand calling for lifting the embargo.

The minister pointed out that the Omani brothers indicated they will do their utmost to support Iraq's just demand for lifting the embargo on its people and that they will hold intensive contacts with all fair-minded states to mobilize a general position in support of Iraq's just demand.

The foreign minister said the Qatari brothers expressed their readiness to support and back Iraq with all their resources to lift the embargo and stop the Iraqi people's suffering.

On bilateral relations between Iraq and the two countries, the minister said this subject figured in talks with Qatari and Omani officials. He expressed hope that these relations will witness large-scale development in the near future represented in genuine and practical steps by officials in the three countries, pointing out that he exchanged views with the two countries' officials, especially with regard to undertaking serious, practical, and sincere efforts to develop and promote a sound pan-Arab base for Arab solidarity.

Sees 'Optimism' on Gulf Relations

MM1303130495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
13 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani: "Iraqi Foreign Minister: Oman Enthusiastic for Lifting Embargo; Optimism About Relaxation in Relations With Emirates and Bahrain"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muscat—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has stressed that the Sultanate of Oman is "enthusiastic" for alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering and lifting the international embargo imposed on his country. He said in a meeting held in Muscat yesterday with a limited number of journalists following his talks with Omani Minister Of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, that he was confident that Oman, a Security Council member, will support the lifting of the embargo after Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the special committee entrusted with dismantling banned Iraqi weapons, submits his report to the council in April.

He announced that his visits to two Gulf Cooperation Council member states, namely Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman, assume political importance and significance. He described them as a start for resuming and developing relations between Iraq and the Gulf states.

He pointed to Iraq's optimism about a relaxation in relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, and to Baghdad's wish to "resume contacts with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and even with Kuwait, if there is a similar wish to restore cohesion, clear the air in the Gulf, and return to what would achieve the common interests of the region's states." He pointed to progress in Iraq's Arab relations. He said that relations with Egypt "are moving toward stability in a positive direction."

Al-Sahhaf denied the existence of a U.S. offer or U.S. pressure on Iraq to exchange the lifting of the embargo for its recognition of Israel.

Al-Sahhaf's visit to Muscat is the first of its kind since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He held similar talks in Doha on Friday and Saturday. He was received by the Qatari heir apparent Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, and Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani.

The Iraqi minister stressed yesterday that there was nothing new as regards the Security Council's review of the embargo today, saying that the serious review of the embargo will begin after Ekeus submits his report. He stressed "Iraq's right" to implement Clause 22 of Resolution 687, which obliges the international community to lift the economic embargo, including the oil blockade, once the special committee confirms Iraq's implementation of Clauses 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the same resolution. These clauses concern the elimination of mass-destruction weapons and [Iraq's] subjection to a long-term monitoring system under UN supervision.

He said that his visit to Oman is part of an Iraqi move designed to make contacts with the governments of the Security Council member states, "in order to draw up all facts and information concerning Iraq's implementation of and compliance with the council's resolutions, especially the fundamental points concerning mass-destruction weapons, in order to help them (governments) to take a fair position." He expects Oman and most of the council's member states to support lifting the sanctions on Iraq, pointing out that his country cannot accept phased, gradual implementation of Clause 22 concerning the lifting of the embargo on Iraqi exports, and that this is the object of coordination among Baghdad, France, Russia, and China.

However, he stressed his country's complete rejection of the offer made by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright in Muscat some two weeks ago with a view to reviving Resolution 706, which allows Iraq to sell quantities of oil not exceeding \$1.6 billion in value under the international organization's supervision. This resolution has been rejected by Baghdad on several occasions, and al-Sahhaf described it as aimed at "turning Iraq and the Iraqis into a large refugee camp."

The Iraqi foreign minister cast doubt on the truth of Albright's statements in Muscat and other capitals of the Security Council member states, namely that the majority of the council's member states support continuing the embargo imposed on Iraq. He told AL-HAYAH that after his talks with the Omanis, he is now confident that the ambassador's statements "are baseless and contravene the real positions of the states, including the Sultanate of Oman."

Al-Sahhaf supported the idea which Omani sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id presented to Albright, namely to crystallize a clear international agenda for dealing with Iraq—an agenda that specifies the obligations Iraq has implemented and those which need to be implemented, without increasing these obligations from one phase to another or keeping the sanctions file open forever. However, the Iraqi minister said that this is the task of the special committee headed by Ekeus, not the United States. He stressed that Iraq and some Security Council member states have requested Ekeus to submit a report specifying what Iraq has implemented and what it is required to implement. [passage omitted]

Social Summit Delegation Proposes Amendments to Document

JN1103132995 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT
11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Copenhagen, March 11, INA—Iraq has submitted various amendments on the working programme and the declaration document scheduled in the international conference of the social development currently on in Copenhagen.

The Iraqi delegation has noticed that the conference document lacks three important factors leading among which the imposition of the economic sanctions on many Third World countries, the matter that will lead to hindering the social development programmes for these countries in all fields.

The delegation also drew the attention for the migration of the scientists from the developing countries to the industrial states that badly affects the scientific progress in the developing countries.

The third suggestion was about the culture published by the Western media via their networks full of violence, crime, drugs and social fragmentation as well as different kinds of deviation in the social relations that had greatly affected the social progress in the Third World countries.

The Iraqi delegation headed by advisor in the presidency office Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, has commissioned these amendments and suggestions to be referred to the committee dedicated to discussing the declaration document and programme.

Hammadi Addresses Summit

JN1203212495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Copenhagen, 12 Mar (INA)—Iraq has stressed that continuation of the economic embargo imposed against it, after Iraq had fulfilled its commitments in accordance with the UN Security Council, is a deliberate act by certain hegemonistic states to obstruct Iraq's will to implement the national and international obligations resulting from its membership in several international charters, particularly those related to development and human rights.

In a speech he delivered this evening to the United Nations World Summit for Social Development, currently convening in the Danish capital Copenhagen, Sa'dun Hammadi, adviser at the Presidential Office, said that lifting the unfair embargo is the humanitarian responsibility of everyone [words indistinct] to give priority to social development and the wellbeing of human beings, as stated in the preamble of the final (?statement).

He called for renouncing the use of economic embargo and the starvation policy, not only because they run counter to the priorities of this summit, but also because they conflict with the basic principles and foundations of human rights.

He said the establishment of a world economic order free of the policy of hegemony and tutelage and based on democracy and the principles of justice and fairness constitutes [words indistinct] and development since it provides the proper framework for equality among [word indistinct] and peoples in view of the strong connection between the wellbeing of [words indistinct]

on the one hand, and the development of [words indistinct] countries [words indistinct] and the influence this will have on the wellbeing of the world (?community) as a whole.

In his speech before the conference, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi reviewed [words indistinct], which were caused by the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, particularly in the health, educational, and environmental areas.

He pointed out that Iraq's response to the idea of convening an international summit on social development was completely in line with its persistent endeavor, whether within the Arab framework, the Group of 77, the Nonaligned Movement, or the United Nations, to establish a just and democratic world system in order to deal with human rights issues in a comprehensive and coherent way, apart from illegitimate political purposes, and to fight poverty, hunger, illness, backwardness, illiteracy, unemployment, and attempts to harm the environment and hamper progress and development in an comprehensive framework.

He said economic sanctions imposed on a certain country for political considerations represent not only a major obstacle for that country to achieving development and social prosperity and progress for its people, but also result in severe damage and grave deterioration in the conditions of the society.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi added that recently there have been many economic boycott resolutions against Third World countries. He stressed that this phenomenon, which [words indistinct] the Third World, namely, its living standards and economy, is incompatible with the spirit of the charter and the human principles on which the United Nations was established. Undoubtedly, it also conflicts with the goals of this conference.

He added that this phenomenon will weaken the United Nations in terms of its efficiency and the world's confidence in it.

Hammadi added that [words indistinct] to establish its modern state by pursuing a realistic and practical method that can secure the requirements of the establishment of a balanced society in terms of economic, political, and social development [passage indistinct].

Peres, Netanyahu Comment After Meeting Christopher*TA1003124095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher says the next few months are vital in the peace negotiations with Syria. He was speaking after a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Jerusalem. Peres said the Israeli position gives enough material to reopen the negotiations with Syria. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was asked if he felt the negotiations with Syria were about to reopen. He said Israel had submitted to Secretary Christopher enough reasonable positions to justify the hope that Syria would come back to the negotiating table.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I think there is a fair possibility; I cannot guess, I really don't know the mood in Damascus, but I think the Israeli position gives enough material to reopen the door of negotiations between us and the Syrians.

[Katzenell] (?Once) there is an agreement between Israel and Syria on the issue of the border, do you think that the security issues will be solved without difficulty?

[Peres] Sir, this is a provocative question which I am not going to answer. [end recording]

[Katzenell] Peres and Christopher had detailed discussions on economic issues: the planned Middle East development bank, the industrial parks for the Palestinians, and so on. [passage omitted] [end Katzenell]

From the Foreign Ministry, Secretary Christopher briefed President 'Ezer Weizman on the peace process, and from the president's mansion he went on to meet Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu. David Essing reports:

[Essing] At their meeting, the Likud leader did most of the talking. Netanyahu told Christopher it was possible to achieve peace with Syria without the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] coming down from the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 10 March carries a related report which includes a recording of Peres' remarks in English made after his meeting with Christopher: "We are beginning to renew the second or the third stage of the negotiations concerning the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Jordanians, and the Middle East as a whole. I think this is inseparable."

[A similar report by political correspondent Udi Segal on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 March also includes a recording of Peres' remarks: "The prime minister and I have stated this very clearly: All the reports about us being disinterested in the peace process

with Syria are totally unfounded, and all the election-related calculations are totally unfounded. We have a mandate to make peace on all fronts, and we firmly insist on fulfilling our duty to use that mandate." Segal further reports: "Peres said the negotiating agenda includes all the issues—the timetable, the arrangement package, and normalization—and not merely the security issue."

[Correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports in the same newsreel that in his meeting with Christopher, "Netanyahu said the Likud is preparing for the possibility that, in view of the Histadrut corruption affairs and the crises in Labor, the general elections would be held earlier than scheduled."]

Meeting Detailed*TA1203153995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Mar 95 p A2*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] In their meeting on 10 March, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu presented his ideas for an arrangement with Syria to Secretary of State Warren Christopher and asked the secretary to deliver the proposal to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Netanyahu told Christopher that if the Likud formed the next government, they would not withdraw from the Golan Heights. Netanyahu told Christopher he was prepared to eschew a full-fledged peace treaty with Syria and to negotiate a security arrangement that Netanyahu described as "less-than-peace."

Netanyahu told Christopher: "I do not think that al-Asad wants peace with Israel now. He is not talking about normalization, and seems to be more keen to make peace with the United States. He also has interests in Lebanon, which for understandable reasons, are more important to him than the Golan Heights. We will not withdraw from the Golan Heights, and I believe it would be right to consider another approach and discard the equation that Syria wants all of the Golan Heights and Israel wants peace. We are not prepared to pull out of the Golan, a majority of the Israeli people oppose a withdrawal, and al-Asad is not prepared to make peace without getting all of the Golan in exchange. This is a certain recipe for a deadlock."

Netanyahu asserted: "We are prepared to continue negotiating with the Syrians once they realize that they will not get all of the Golan Heights. We, for our part, will forgo full peace. We will discuss other arrangements, a situation of less-than-peace, so that Israel feels good from the security aspect and Syria secures some other benefits."

Christopher spoke little during the meeting and asked to hear the Likud's position on the peace process. He said that "al-Asad followed American and Israeli politics." The secretary of state was interested in Egyptian-Israeli relations and Netanyahu told him: "We fully support the

government's positions vis-a-vis Egypt on the nuclear issue. We want to maintain the status quo on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

As for the Palestinians, Netanyahu said: "Most of the Israeli people have lost all trust in 'Arafat and do not want another Gaza Strip in Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister sees things the same way. Continuing the process will lead to an explosion. We propose giving the Palestinians self-administration, with Israel retaining responsibility for security, borders, and foreign relations. We will not reoccupy the Gaza Strip."

Netanyahu said that a Palestinian state would be an Islamic entity which would be a threat not only to Israel but also to the United States and the entire Western world. He proposed halting the transfer of funds to the PLO and the Palestinian Authority, which he called "Baksheesh land." Instead, Netanyahu urged "treating them the way the World Bank deals with corrupt regimes" and invest directly in projects.

Netanyahu also noted how important it was to include Jordan in any arrangement and asked the United States to aid the Jordanians. The meeting was also attended by Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav, the chairman of the Likud's Knesset faction, MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the chairman of the political committee, and Zalman Shoval, head of the Likud's foreign relations department.

Peres Views Syrian Track, Christopher Visit

TA1003201595 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by anchorman Yaron London in the studio on 10 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [London] By setting a target date for the completion of the negotiations and telling the opposition that things will really pick up now, are you not sowing the seeds for domestic political upheaval?

[Peres] I do not think so. I think that the opposition is so pleased with itself, so smug, and so occupied with the distribution of future ministerial portfolios, that we can proceed without undue concern.

[London] But they have good reason to feel this way.

[Peres] I am not sure about that. I do not accept your view. I do not know about the opposition. I only know that there are 20 months until the elections. We can do one of two things: either to use these 20 months to answer the question of how to win the elections or to make use of this period to learn how to achieve peace. In my opinion, achieving a victory in peace is far more important than winning the elections. If we deal with the peace issue we have a chance of winning the elections.

[London] In other words, the two things may go together?

[Peres] I think so.

[London] Is not the lassitude in the Labor Party one of the reasons that Yitzhaq Rabin, with your support, decided to accelerate the process?

[Peres] I do not think so. I think that the assessment that time is running out and perhaps even the threat of losing office forces us to concentrate all our efforts on promoting the peace process. Two or three other things have happened that should not be forgotten. We have now had almost 45 days without a major terrorist attack. This has calmed down the street a bit. Second, peace with Jordan has gotten off to a successful start, and this is encouraging. Third, the Syrians, despite all the mutual snubs, have kept the negotiations alive.

[London] I believe that the feeling that there has been a breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria is the reason for that smile on your face over the past 48 hours. What happened? If there were no contacts in Brussels as reported last week—and after all these reports were denied—then what did happen? Perhaps something happened only on our end?

[Peres] No, nothing took place in Brussels.

[London] Then what happened?

[Peres] What happened is that we thoroughly analyzed the Syrian positions and realized that while their positions were inflexible, they were also adamant that the process should not be stopped. I believe that enough material can be found to renew the peace process between the Syrians and Israel.

[London] What? What else can we pull out of our diplomatic hat?

[Peres] This is a very good question, and I would prefer to give the answer to the Americans.

[London] Did you give it to Warren Christopher in your meeting with him this morning?

[Peres] This morning, I explained why I believed that Israel's positions permitted the renewal of the negotiations. Look, there is some confusion here between one's opening and closing positions. As far as opening positions go, the Syrians can come with whatever demands they want, whereas Israel for its part will expect the Syrians to conform to its own positions.

[London] But it was this very disagreement that caused the negotiations to run aground. The Syrians want to know the outcome of the process in advance.

[Peres] They will know the outcome of the process when it ends. One cannot begin the....

[London, interrupting] But what happens now, Mr. Peres? Why should the negotiations pick up now if they were impossible to resume two weeks ago?

[Peres] First of all, one must keep on trying. Even the fact that two weeks have gone by is a good reason to try again.

[London] You mean the time factor in itself?

[Peres] Certainly, even the Syrians are beginning to understand that time is running out, and I also think so. Without attempting to be dramatic, I think the coming 20 months are irreplaceable. It would be a sin on our part to spend these 20 months dealing with political intrigues, sensationalism, Histadrut corruption, destruction, partisan earthquakes, etc.

[London] You are talking about us, not the Syrians?

[Peres] Yes. All this is not interesting. There is one major issue facing us. [passage omitted]

Rabin Presents Christopher 'More Flexible' Stand on Syria

TA1203073795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 March carries a 600-word report by Aluf Ben and Gay Bekhor on pages A1 and A10, stating: "U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due back in Israel tomorrow night, following his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. Israel is expecting Syria to agree to the resumption of the Washington talks between the two countries' ambassadors and army officers, which were discontinued by al-Asad two and a half months ago. A senior political source said yesterday that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin 'feels no urgency' about the negotiations with Syria.

"According to the source, Rabin does not view the U.S. secretary of state's current tour as the last chance to attain peace between Israel and Syria. The source noted that Israel is not seeking to accelerate the negotiations with Syria. 'We wanted to hold talks all along, but Syria decided to stop them.'"

A related 200-word report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on pages 1 and 14 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 March adds: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with more flexible stands on the advancement of the negotiations with Syria, political elements maintain.

"The elements estimate that Rabin wished to give Christopher some initial substance for his meeting with Hafiz al-Asad tomorrow.

"It is believed in Jerusalem that the U.S. secretary of state will pressure the Syrian president to get the peace process going at once."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 12 March carries a 200-word report by Hemi Shalev on pages 1 and 2, adding that Rabin has conveyed a "message" to al-Asad via Christopher, "saying that the Government of Israel wishes to clear the disagreements with Syria, and that it has the necessary political strength to bring about the ratification of the peace agreement in a national referendum.

"Jerusalem is anxiously awaiting the results of the Damascus encounter, and senior political elements said it will be 'crucial for the continuation of the peace process.'

"Political elements said last night that, for the first time, Rabin's message implies an Israeli acknowledgement of the need for full withdrawal from the Golan, provided the two sides reach agreement on the disputed issues of security arrangements, normalization, and the duration of withdrawal. The elements pointed out, however, that Rabin's message 'is not unequivocal on this point.'"

Christopher To Convey Rabin Message to al-Asad

JN1203134695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Mar 95

[Report by Shlomo Ganor in Israel]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israelis will observe, with concern, the talks U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will hold with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus and the responses he might bring with him to Israel tomorrow. Israeli quarters said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave Christopher a thread of hope to activate the talks. These quarters refrained from disclosing the new proposals, which are said to be the result of flexibility in the Israeli position. The Israeli quarters said the Syrian president will be the first to learn about these proposals from the U.S. secretary of state.

The Israeli quarters noted that the verbal message which Rabin asked to be conveyed to al-Asad, reaffirms the Israeli Government's desire to overcome the existing differences in the positions of the two countries. The quarters added that the message notes that the present Israeli Government can reach agreement on a settlement and obtain the support of the Israeli people for it in a public referendum.

In light of the briefing presented by the Israeli chief of staff to the U.S. side regarding the Israeli concept of the settlement in the Golan, it has become clear that Israel insists on turning the Golan Heights into a demilitarized zone, reducing the size of the Syrian forces (near) the Golan, and keeping the existing Israeli [early] warning stations. The Israeli side will make a reciprocal reduction in the Israeli forces as well.

The Israeli quarters expressed their belief that Christopher's tour will result in resuming the Syrian-Israeli talks on the ambassadorial level and arranging meetings between the two armies' chiefs of staff, in preparation for forming a joint military working team.

Results of Christopher-al-Asad 'Anxiously' Awaited

TA1203195195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Mar 95

[Aharon Barne'a and 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now to the negotiations with Syria, prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's meeting with President al-Asad tomorrow. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin handed Christopher a new offer on negotiating priorities. Senior political sources said today that in his meeting with Christopher, the prime minister drafted a more flexible declaration of intent than previously proposed. Jerusalem is anxiously awaiting the Christopher meetings in Damascus. Our correspondents 'Imanu'el Rosen and Aharon Barne'a report:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Despite the effort to appear unfazed, even Rabin believes that Christopher's current visit to the region is critical for the negotiations between Israel and Syria. The cabinet took time off today to discuss the army's preparedness for war, but it is reasonable to assume that in a week or two Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq will confer with his Syrian counterpart in Washington to discuss peace. The decision to speed up the negotiations with Syria, as well as with the Palestinians, was made by Rabin last week. A senior political source told us today that Christopher left for Damascus with a new Rabin offer on the negotiating procedures and with a more significant declaration of intent than previously presented by the prime minister.

[Environment Minister Yosi Sarid] The U.S. secretary of state can hand the Syrian president the end of a rope.

[Rosen] Is it something new?

[Sarid] What does it matter whether it is new or old? A rope end is a rope end. We will then see if the Syrians are interested in pulling on the rope, which if they does, would mean there is a chance for progress and developments in the negotiations. If, God forbid, they let the rope slip, then we will have to conclude that their readiness to make peace with Israel is not what we had assumed or had wanted to believe.

[Rosen] Tomorrow evening the U.S. flag will once again be hoisted here when Christopher returns from Damascus. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a tells us what he can expect there:

[Barne'a] President al-Asad, who will meet with Christopher tomorrow morning, conferred with the Saudi foreign minister today. At the request of the Americans, Sa'ud al-Faysal al-Sa'ud was dispatched to precede Christopher in Damascus. The secretary of state has apparently heard from the Saudi foreign minister the Syrian demand to apply American pressure on Israel so that it comes up with a formula enabling Damascus to understand that Israel is prepared for a full withdrawal in return for full peace. If there is no such formula in the

new package Rabin handed Christopher, the secretary of state might return from Damascus with an agreement to renew the Washington talks, but without any announcement of a significant change in Damascus' position. [end recording]

British Prime Minister Major Pays Official Visit

Ambassador to UK Previews Visit

TA1203075695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] British Prime Minister John Major is due to arrive in Israel today on an official visit that will include meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, as well as a trip to Jordan. [passage omitted]

The trip by the British premier comes at a time of improving relations between London and Jerusalem. Reporter Jack Katzenell spoke to Israel's ambassador to Britain, Moshe Raviv.

[Begin recording] [Raviv] I believe that the relations between the two countries are based, first of all, on mutual respect and, I would say, even mutual sympathies. Then there are mutual interests. For instance, both Israel and the United Kingdom are interested in peace, are interested in stability, are interested in promoting democracy in the Middle East, are interested in promoting a better existence for the Palestinians. So, the peace process has certainly provided an impetus for the improvement of the relations between the two countries, and one of the expressions is the visit of Prime Minister Major and the economic delegation of 29 top business people from the United Kingdom that will be accompanying the prime minister.

[Katzenell] What does Israel hope to come out of this visit?

[Raviv] The first thing is, I would say, a stronger relationship and further improvement in the dialogue and in the understanding between the two countries; secondly, a better understanding of the possibilities, the opportunities, and the difficulties in the peace process on all its tracks; and thirdly, the economic and business opportunities that will be explored in the encounter between British businessmen and Israeli business leaders.

[Katzenell] Is Israel satisfied with the British cooperation in the field of the war against terrorism, beginning with the protection for the embassy and Jewish institutions in Britain, and of course, the wider war against terrorism?

[Raviv] I believe that Britain is making every effort to protect Israeli institutions and also the Jewish institutions, and this is a subject of an ongoing dialogue between the two countries, which I do not wish to go into detail. [end recording]

Rabin Welcomes Major Upon Arrival

TA1203172995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] British Prime Minister John Major has arrived in Israel for an official visit. After his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, the British premier went to Jerusalem, where the traditional reception took place at the Rose Garden. Harley Braidman was there.

[Begin recording] [Braidman] British Prime Minister John Major brought some typically cool London March weather with him, but there was nothing cool about the warm reception he received from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who stressed Israel was embracing him with open arms. [passage omitted]

Major replied he was delighted to be in Israel and expressed admiration for its remarkable achievements. But his main remarks were devoted to the peace process and common values.

[Major] We have made common cause on many occasions because we share common values. Standing here on this site as one looks around one can see the Knesset, the Supreme Court, and the Prime Minister's Office. And perhaps of all of the tangible and intangible symbols that bind our nations together, they are perhaps symbols of the greatest bond. An unshakeable belief in democratic principles.

[Braidman] After the ceremony, Rabin and Major had their first working session at the Prime Minister's Office. [end recording]

Rabin Welcoming Remarks Reported

TA1203172795 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 95

[Issued by the Prime Minister Rabin media advisor on 12 March]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister and Mrs. Major; Members of the British Delegation; Dear Friends:

Welcome to Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel and the heart of the Jewish people.

The history of the relations between Britain and Israel has known happier hours, as well as painful hours. This is a happy hour. We choose to remember today the happier moments between us: the Balfour Declaration, which established a national homeland for the Jewish people in Eretz Yisra'el, Britain's courageous stand during World War II in fighting the Nazi air blitz and all that we have absorbed of the British culture during the British Mandate. These will forever bind us together.

You have come back to us today, forty-seven years after you left Israel, and this time Israel is extending its hand to you and embracing you warmly with open arms.

Mr. Prime Minister,

We are witnessing today close and very friendly relations between Jerusalem and London. Even if in the past—and maybe in the future—there have been differences of opinion between our two countries, we know that you have always been concerned about the problems of peace and security of Israel and the Middle East.

The strong and friendly ties between our countries today are largely due to your efforts, Mr. Prime Minister, and we thank you for that.

Mr. Prime Minister,

This is also a wonderful opportunity to congratulate you personally, the members of your Government and your people, on the steps you have taken for reconciliation and peace with Northern Ireland. From first-hand experience at making peace, I understand the challenges and the difficulties, and I wish you every success.

In the short time we have together, you will get to know the Israelis as a people who pursue peace, who are building a new country with tremendous determination and with great sacrifice, while combatting the difficult battle against terror and enemies who rise to murder us. A people who daily fight hardships and who are making history these days through their efforts to achieve peace.

During your visit we will try to give you and the delegation accompanying you on this journey, a true picture of the State of Israel: the challenges, the opportunities and the struggles. We want you to know, Mr. Prime Minister, that we see you and your people as dedicated partners and sincere friends.

The Government and the State of Israel warmly shakes your hand, and thanks you in appreciation. From the bottom of our hearts, we say to you: Shalom and Welcome to Israel.

Rabin, Major on Bilateral Relations

TA1303061895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] British Prime Minister John Major continues his visit to Israel, holding talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and President 'Ezer Weizman. Major, who is the second British premier to visit Israel since Margaret Thatcher came nine years ago, arrived yesterday. After an official welcome in Jerusalem Major held his first working session with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The two sides also signed an agreement doubling a binational science and technology fund.

Rabin briefed Major on developments in the peace process. He also said he thought relations between Israel and Britain had never been better:

[Begin Rabin recording] The peace treaty with Jordan needs cultivation and assistance, and we hope the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon will be resumed. These

issues were discussed today with Prime Minister John Major, in which we put the way that we see what are the hopes, what are the dangers. We discussed bilateral relations between our two countries stating, on my side, that we believe that today we have improved tremendously the bilateral relations between the two governments, between the two peoples. [end recording]

The visiting prime minister called on the international community not to lift the sanctions against Iraq's Saddam Husayn. Major was speaking at a banquet in his honor hosted by Prime Minister Rabin at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem last night.

[Begin Major recording] Saddam Husayn continues policies of harsh repression to Iraq's people. He continues to threaten the stability and security of the whole region, and there are still very serious questions to be answered about Iraq's biological weapons capability. United Nations sanctions come up this week for renewal. The international community must not be gulled by Saddam's tactics of evasion and deception. I can assure you that the United Kingdom will not be deceived. We shall continue, with good reason, to approach sanctions rigorously in the interest of Iraq's people and of the Middle East as a whole. We are determined to ensure that the whole of Iraq's biological capability is detected, and once detected is then destroyed before there can be any question of adjustments to the sanctions regime. [end recording]

Peres, Major Discuss Economic Projects

TA1303084695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a meeting with British Prime Minister John Major this morning. The meeting centered on British economic involvement in the Middle East aimed at bolstering the peace process. Among other things, the two discussed the industrial parks to be established in the territories and a Middle East bank to finance regional projects by means of private funds. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the two figures will apparently hold another meeting tomorrow.

Rabin Address on Bilateral Ties, Peace Process

TA1303111195 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 13 Mar 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to British Prime Minister John Major in Jerusalem on 12 March—"communicated by the Prime Minister's Media Advisor"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Major, My colleague the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Members of the Government of the United Kingdom and Israel, Members of the British Delegation, President of the Supreme Court, Madame State Comptroller, Distinguished Guests, it is an honor and a privilege to welcome you here this evening in our home, Jerusalem.

We very much want you to feel at home here, and many Israelis will applaud you tomorrow and will warmly embrace you, both because of our good relations with Britain - and because of the television series, "Yes, Prime Minister", which was very popular here.

Yes, Prime Minister Major, I know that we both share an infinite capacity to absorb criticism and an equal determination to take the necessary decisions which will bring our people peace and prosperity.

The annals of the Jewish people and the history of the State of Israel during the last century here in the Middle East are intertwined. It is impossible to describe our history without you, from 1917 until today. In every corner of the land, Britain has left its mark.

Of course this evening we prefer to remember the better moments in the relations between Jerusalem and London; the historic Balfour Declaration, which established a Jewish National Homeland after nearly two thousand years of wandering, the beginnings of the administrative and economic infrastructure during the days of the British Mandate, and the deliverance of the Jewish people by Britain, its soldiers and its people, who stood on the front line facing the claws of the murderous Nazi beast. We are now marking the 50th anniversary of the tremendous victory, and we cannot forget those who reached out.

There have also been more difficult moments in the relationship between our two peoples - however, the wounds have healed, thank goodness, and we are not here to mull over the past. We are looking forward to the future. And when we look forward to the future, Mr. Prime Minister, we see in you, and in Britain, a foundation, a bedrock of support in the relations between Israel and Britain, between Israel and Europe, and in the new global realities.

Our ties will be strengthened through greater economic cooperation, more extensive trade and freer markets between our two countries. To the members of the economic community who are part of the delegation, I express an especially warm welcome, and hope that as a result of your visit, the economic relations between Great Britain and Israel will flourish.

Mr. Prime Minister, from the moment that you were elected, we have seen you as a true friend. During our meeting I felt your desire to see us secure in our homeland, in peace, tranquility and happiness.

This is an opportunity to thank you personally for your decision to cancel the embargo, on the establishment of joint research foundation on scientific cooperation, and on the support and encouragement which have shown us within the framework of the European Union. I would also like to thank your wife, Norma.

We recognize the significance of Europe historically, culturally and economically, and look forward with great

hope to strengthening our relations with Europe as a whole and especially with Britain.

Mr. Prime Minister, Friends, you have come here during a critical period for the Israeli people: after generations of bloodshed we are trying to build peace. Just three days ago, on March ninth in Jerusalem, we held talks with the American Secretary of State in order to advance the peace talks with Syria, in Gaza, our Foreign Minister, Shim'on Peres, met with the PLO Chairman to discuss the continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians, in Aqaba, I met with the King of Jordan to talk about the implementation of the peace treaty with Jordan.

The political air is alive here, alive with activity, proving how much we dream of peace - and are doing for peace. The main problem today is the terror which is being waged against us by the extreme Islamic groups. We appreciate your steadfast commitment in the fight against terror. No doubt, we will win the struggle against the terror even if it lasts for a long time.

We said to our Palestinian partners last week that we want to complete the next stage of the negotiations by July first. We want the Palestinians to hold elections for their institutions. There are no political obstacles which prevent us from implementing the peace agreement with them so that we can live in peaceful coexistence. The only obstacle to achieve our common goal is terrorism.

To the American Secretary of State, who will meet with the Syrian President tomorrow, I said: "We want to make peace, and we are able to do so." We hope that we find President Assad as committed as we are to forge a real peace, and achieve the normalization of relations between our two countries.

With the King of Jordan, we talk about day to day life in times of peace. In the near future, private vehicles will cross the border just like they cross the border between France and Belgium. For you this is part of daily life - for us this is the fulfillment of a dream.

Mr. Prime Minister, in the spirit of peace we greet you tonight with all our heart and with open arms. Let us raise our glasses in honor of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. John Major, and his wife Norma,

in honor of the relations between Britain and Israel, peace and the State of Israel. L'chaim, Cheers.

Further on Rabin-Major Discussions

TAI303111395 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS
OFFICE in English 13 Mar 95

["Communicated by Prime Minister's Media Adviser"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met yesterday (Sunday), 12.3.95, with British Prime Minister John Major for a working meeting. Mr. Rabin briefed Mr. Major on the political process and said that the easiest two problems had already been resolved—the achievement of an agreement with the Palestinians, and its implementation in Gaza and Jericho, and the peace treaty with Jordan. Now, he said, Israel faces two more difficult problems—implementing the DOP in Judea and Samaria, and reaching an agreement with Syria.

Mr. Rabin said that terrorism is the most difficult problem facing Israel, noting with satisfaction the agreement between Britain and Ireland on an end to terror. He pointed to Iran as being responsible for funding and building the infrastructure for terrorism in the Middle East and around the world.

Turning to the economic sphere, Mr. Rabin said that "the issue which can, more than anything other, promote peace in the Middle East is economic development." He encouraged Britain to continue writing off Jordan's debts, as it has in the past—and to provide economic aid to the Palestinian Authority, so that the peace dividend can be felt in the streets of both Jordan and Gaza. Mr. Rabin also asked Mr. Major to improve the Israel-Britain balance of trade, currently tilted against Israel in the amount of \$800 million.

Mr. Major said that he is also concerned about terrorism, saying that "I am concerned about terrorism, because of both you and us. There have been proposals to ease sanctions on Iraq, but we oppose this until Baghdad complies with all Security Council resolutions."

After their working meeting, the two men met with a group of British industrialists and businessmen accompanying Mr. Major on his visit, a group that Mr. Major called the most respectable to be found in Britain.

Peres Holds Talks With Prince Hasan in Amman

JN1203175695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700
GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Israeli Foreign Minister and Socialist International member Shim'on Peres. They discussed prospects for moving from peacemaking to peace building and a needed cooperation by world nations for implementation of Jordanian developments projects as a fruit of the peace treaty with Israel. His royal highness and Mr. Peres also touched on preparations for the Amman economic summit due to be held in October. These include organizing a set of workshops that would draw proposals for development projects contributing to economic growth in the region. His royal highness and the Israeli minister also dealt with the European role in implementing the peace treaty and building just and comprehensive peace.

Mr. Peres left Amman this evening and was seen off by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Further on Talks

JN1303100495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
13 Mar 95 pp 1, 3

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribe Excerpt] Amman—Jordan and Israel on Sunday discussed water projects included in their Oct. 26 peace treaty with a view to coordinating positions ahead of a meeting in Germany on financing for the projects, official sources said.

The discussions, which also included a review of the developments since the peace treaty was signed, were held between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who paid a three-hour visit to Amman three days after His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met in al-'Aqabah.

According to the sources and reports in the Israeli press, the central theme for Sunday's talks at the al-Hashemiyah Palace was plans to ensure that Jordan gets its share of water from the al-Yarmuk and Jordan rivers as stipulated in the peace treaty.

The plans, which include the building of dams and a desalination plant, are expected to cost up to \$400 million. The proposed facilities and detailed seasonal arrangements governing the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers would make available to Jordna an additional quantity of 215 million cubic metres of water every year. At present, the Kingdom is getting around 110 million cubic metres to 120 million cubic metres a year.

Israeli sources, quoted in a report carried by the Jerusalem Post on Sunday, said Prince Hasan and Mr. Peres

were to discuss a joint proposal for dam construction that they will present to Germany in a meeting in Bonn this week.

Sources in Amman confirmed that the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres were to meet with chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn on Wednesday.

An Israeli embassy spokesman said Jordanian-Israeli "coordination on water projects and economic issues" were the key topic in the meeting between the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres.

The Jordan News agency, Petra, said the Crown Prince's talks with Mr. Peres came on the sidelines of a Socialist International delegation's meeting in Amman. [passage omitted]

King Reportedly Urges Rabin To Implement PLO Accord

JN1103084295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
11 Mar 95, pp 1, 7

[Article by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzaq Rabin to accelerate the implementation of the Jewish state's peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), official sources said Friday [10 March].

The sources, who preferred anonymity, said the King's call came during a meeting he had with Mr. Rabin in al-'Aqabah Thursday evening. [passage omitted]

The source said Mr. Rabin briefed the King on his talks with Mr. Christopher and the Peres-'Arafat meeting. [passage omitted]

In al-'Aqabah, the King and Mr. Rabin also reviewed "other issues related to the Christopher visit" to the Middle East and developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track after the two countries signed a peace treaty in October, the source said.

"The King threw his weight behind the reality that something should be done quickly to break the stalemate in the peace process since time is running out," said one source.

"He emphasised that it is most essential that immediate measures be undertaken, otherwise the consequence of a breakdown in the Palestinian track would affect all of us," the source added.

According to the source, the King also called for speedier implementation of the provisions of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. This meant quicker moves towards concluding agreements in various sectors including trade and transport.

Negotiations on trade are proceeding at snail's pace as Israel is holding out against Jordanian demands for

treatment of its imports to Israel in a manner that absorbs the huge disparity in the economies of the two countries.

A draft transport accord is almost complete and is awaiting some final touches, according to officials. This accord is expected to enable direct transport links between the two countries and allow the entry of vehicles from both sides to each other's territory.

Mr. Rabin agreed with the King of the necessity to speed up the negotiations on the various agreements and sign them even before the scheduled deadline of May 10, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Husayn Said To Expect Christopher Explanation of Debt Stand

JN1003125795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian King Husayn's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in al-'Aqabah last night focused on ways to complete the implementation of the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty.

A ranking Jordanian source told our radio the two leaders also discussed passing the legislation needed to meet the requirements of the peace treaty. The source said King Husayn voiced the hope that the peace march will continue on the other tracks based on the commitment to the attain a comprehensive and just solution.

The source said the two leaders emphasized the importance of an effective international participation in the economic summit to be held in Amman end this year.

On the issue of canceling Jordan's debts to the United States and on a U.S. Congress committee's reduction of the second installment of the debts that are to be canceled from \$275 to \$50 million, Rabin told King Husayn: There is no doubt that you are disappointed by this measure. King Husayn replied: Jordan expects an explanation of the U.S. stand, to which the U.S. Administration has committed itself, during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit this Monday [13 March].

The source reiterated Jordan's stand which views the question of the cancellation of its debts as a test of how serious the United States is in supporting the peace process. The source said: Washington committed itself before the Congress and the peoples of the region to support the peace process. He said that any retraction of this commitment will negatively reflect on the U.S. policy and its credibility in the region.

On another level, the first Royal Jordanian airliner flew through Israeli airspace this morning, under an agreement the two parties concluded on the periphery of the peace treaty.

The Amman-Amsterdam-New York flight is the first by a commercial air carrier to fly through Israeli airspace since the establishment of the Jewish state.

Al-Kabariti Cited on U.S. Senators' Move on Debts

JN1303090495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Two key members of the U.S. Senate are today expected to present a bill to the Senate under which Washington could write off \$488 million of Jordan's official debts, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Sunday.

The move, by Senator Mitch McConnell (Republican-Kentucky) and Senator Patrick Leahy (Democrat-Vermont), comes after a House of Representatives subcommittee slashed to \$50 million an administration request for an outlay of \$275 million to write off the Jordanian debts.

In technical terms, a \$275 million outlay would enable the administration to write off up to \$488 million; the \$50 million approved by the House subcommittee would allow a write-off up to \$100 million.

The slashing of the amount by the House subcommittee drew severe criticism from Jordanian officials and Parliament members.

Mr. al-Kabariti told the Jordan Times on Sunday that the new measure would appropriate the full \$275 million now, "but will actually obligate \$50 million for fiscal 1995, with the remaining \$225 million to be spent in fiscal 1996."

The foreign minister said the move was agreed upon among U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. McConnell, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Mr. Leahy, the ranking Democrat in the Senate, Thursday while the secretary of state was in Israel.

It was believed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the move when he paid a previously unannounced visit to al-'Aqabah late Thursday after a meeting with Mr. Christopher in Tel Aviv.

Mr. al-Kabariti said the measures would be presented in the form of addition to a Department of Defence supplemental bill now before Senate.

"If the McConnell-Leahy amendment is adopted by the full 100-member Senate without changes, and if the full supplemental spending bill is passed by the Senate on Thursday, the next step would be for the House and Senate to go into a conference session in approximately two weeks' time," the foreign minister said.

"Conference" sessions bring together key appropriations from the House and Senate to reconcile their respective

versions of various bills, in this case the Department of Defence supplemental spending bill.

In technical terms, the House version of the Department of Defence supplemental spending bill makes no reference to debt relief for Jordan. As such, the Senate version, if it includes the McConnell-Leahy amendment, will have to be reconciled with the House version.

Members of the House of Representatives of Senate meeting in the conference "will also have to agree the level at which Congress will fund the administration's request for debt relief for Jordan," said the foreign minister.

The Clinton administration agreed last year to write off \$702 million in Jordan's official debts to Washington. The write-off was to come in three tranches—fiscal years 1994, 1995 and 1996 (Jordan owes the U.S. another \$300 million, but that amount is not eligible to be cancelled under parameters applied by the United States).

In September, the two countries signed an agreement under which the U.S. agreed to write off up to \$220 million in the first tranche. Funds for that write-off came in the form of a supplemental spending bill worth \$99 million. The actual write-off, after a process known as "scoring"—by the Office of Management and Budget that takes into consideration outstanding and accumulating interest—was \$194 million.

"The \$702 million is not a definite figure; it could go up or go down by a few million when the actual write-offs are made depending on the formula used for scoring," said a source familiar with American budget workings.

However, congressional approval for the full appropriation of \$275 million for debt relief for Jordan would address all the Kingdom's official dues to the United States government that qualify to be cancelled under American parameters.

Although the administration had originally proposed the write off of the rest of the debts in two tranches, Mr. Christopher agreed to do it in one tranche in fiscal 1995 during a meeting he held with Mr. al-Kabariti in Washington in January.

Ambassador: U.S. 'Not Serious' About Promises

TA1003170395 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 10 Mar 95 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, ambassador-designate to Israel, by correspondent 'Oded Granot in Amman "three weeks before the ambassador's arrival in Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Granot] What is your immediate task?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] One of my main tasks will be to enlighten the Israeli public about different aspects of

Jordanian society and vice versa: to explain events and developments in Israel to the government and people in Jordan. We intend to be very active in the embassy. The embassy will be open to all Israelis. We will give lectures about all facets of life in Jordan. This will encourage Israelis to get to know us.

Another task will be to follow up the implementation of the agreements derived from the peace treaty, to develop contacts with various elements in Israeli society as well as with the Israeli Arabs who can serve as a bridge. Informally, we will also have ties with West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs by virtue of the special relations between them and Jordan.

[Granot] Are you preparing for the possibility that Rabin and King Husayn will keep up their personal relations via personal envoys, while "bypassing" your embassy?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We will work vis-a-vis your government and will not enter domestic politics. I am not afraid I will remain jobless.

[Granot] When were you offered this position in Israel?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The appeal came up in November of last year. I held consultations about this for a week and then gave a positive answer.

[Granot] Were you not deterred by the possibility that you may turn into a persona non grata in several Arab countries as a result?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I had no hesitation about this. I was more troubled by the heavy responsibility, but decided that serving my country is a great honor, and I hope I will be able to contribute to the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Granot] Have you also met with Israeli opposition figures such as Binyamin Netanyahu and Ari'el Sharon?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I have, but not Netanyahu or Sharon. Still, I am familiar with their ideas.

[Granot] You will now have an opportunity to convince Sharon, say, that Jordan is not the alternative Palestinian state.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The relevant and decisive factor is the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty in which the two countries recognized their common border and expressed opposition to the idea of transfer. This suffices to drive the last nail in the coffin of the idea that Jordan is Palestine, even if there are people who still think so.

[Granot] People in Jordan claim that Israeli businessmen are too aggressive and want to reach quick results within a short while. Do you agree with this description?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] It is true that Israel has such an image here. If it is indeed true I will be able to tell you when I get to Israel.

[Granot] It is currently feared that the Israeli tourists will also be viewed in a negative light.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I do not want to make a generalization after such a short while, but I cannot deny the impression that the Israeli tourists do not behave exactly as expected of them. I personally cannot talk without knowing all the facts. Several single individuals can shed a negative light on everybody else, and I do not want to besmirch a whole society. I hope that the negative phenomena will disappear as they do create a negative image.

[Granot] Is it because of the misbehaving few that Aaron's Tomb [in Petra] was closed off to Israeli tourists?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The information I possess indicates that the site was closed by the Tourism and Antiquities Ministry only for a short period due a landslide and not because it was vandalized by tourists. The site has reopened now.

[Granot] As far as bilateral relations are concerned, the impression is that peace was imposed from the top and has not yet "trickled" down to the man in the street. Intellectuals in Jordan, just like Egypt, speak against peace and cooperation with Israel, and trade unions veto contacts with Israel.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] There is a difference between your peace with Egypt and your peace with Jordan, both a geographic and a demographic one. We want a warm rather than a cold peace, but I would like to warn against the anticipation of the warm peace's arriving overnight. People here would be greatly influenced by progress in other channels, especially the Palestinian one.

There is undoubtedly opposition in Jordan to cultural normalization with Israel, and I do not foresee that the situation will change dramatically before the political problems are solved. Mutual visits by Israelis and Jordanians to get to know one another can help a little, but not basically change the situation.

[Granot] Was the four-way meeting in Amman on the issue of displaced Palestinians beneficial?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] It is an important beginning, but it achieved much less than our expectations. The matter of refugees is of the highest importance to Jordan the population of which consists of the world's largest number of displaced persons and refugees. We had hoped to see much greater Israeli flexibility on this.

It is important to understand that support for the peace process in Jordan has begun to be dramatically eroded because the man in the street has not felt the fruits of

peace. Economic distress has not lessened, on the contrary. No improvement has taken place in the standard of living of the population in general and the Palestinians in particular.

[Granot] Is it perhaps because people had entertained too high expectations about this peace or because they had not been properly prepared for it?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Both sides entertained high expectations. The Israeli public, too, wanted to get a lot from the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, but there is a difference between public reaction in Jordan and in Israel. The treaty met the Israelis' needs and consequently, support for it in Israel was accompanied by real euphoria. In Jordan, the expectation was for economic improvement and the restoral of refugees' rights, and this has not materialized. There is still support for the treaty, but it is not accompanied by euphoria.

The treaty has not solved all problems between Israel and Jordan, nor has it settled the Israeli-Arab conflict. In the meantime, today's agreement is between governments only. We must move it to the plane of both nations if we want it to last.

[Granot] What was the reason for the expectations for an improved economic situation?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We have a serious problem with defraying the external debt which has reached a level of 120 percent of the GNP. The U.S. Congress is piling difficulties on the way toward a moratorium of debts, and the impression here is that the United States is not serious about its promises. I am referring to promises President Clinton made when he addressed the Jordanian parliament.

[Granot] What do you believe will happen if the U.S. Congress persists in its refusal to write off most debts?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] This will send a negative message to the Jordanians, other Arab nations, and perhaps even Israel. We are trying to convince the U.S. Congress to adopt an apolitical position.

Some claim that the economic situation in Jordan will not improve even if the U.S. Congress agrees to write off the debts, since it is not the funneling of money that we talk of here.

A moratorium will be helpful in three spheres: It will send a political message to people here that peace with Israel has borne fruits even though they are not immediate-term ones; it will decrease the burden of Jordan's debts and encourage private foreign investments; and it will also encourage other international- community elements to do something about our debts.

Syria Given Credit for Removal of Blockade

NC1003134095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has convinced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to lift the naval blockade imposed by Israel on Lebanon, because its continuation threatens the Middle East peace process. Syria had informed U.S. officials that any talks would be worthless if Israel failed to remove its pressure on Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Our political correspondent in Damascus reported that behind-the-scenes Syrian-American contacts in which Syria expressed dissatisfaction with the situation in south Lebanon helped to put an end to the blockade. Damascus viewed the blockade as pressure on Syria through Lebanon ahead of Christopher's visit. Damascus said the Syrian-American meeting would yield no results as long as the Israeli pressure on Lebanon continued. [passage omitted]

Buwayz: No Concessions to Israel for Lifting Siege

JN1203082695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Mar 95 p 23

[Report by Lima Nabil in Copenhagen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that Lebanon has not made any concessions or guarantees to Israel for lifting the partial blockade which was imposed on Lebanese ports, announced by Israel a few days ago. Over the past two months, Israel has imposed a blockade on the Lebanese waters and intercepted ships arriving at and leaving the southern ports, particularly the port of Sidon. In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Buwayz said that Lebanon has given Israel nothing in exchange for lifting the blockade, adding that they began the blockade and they ended it. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Rabin's Stance on Peace

NC1103075595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 11 Mar 95

[Comments by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with correspondent Sayyid 'Ali in Beirut; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Actually the peace process will face deadlock because the process has dragged on for a long time. Mainly this deadlock is attributed to the Israeli Government, particularly to Rabin.

I believe that Rabin is living in a state of hesitation that affects the peace process. The hesitation is about three main points. First, Rabin believes that by not proposing a peace plan before the parliamentary elections, this will [word indistinct] as a primary plan that he will submit to the Israeli public. He is not the champion of war but

Likud is. So how can he be a champion of peace if he does not have a peace plan?

Sometimes he believes that if he puts forth a peace plan before the Israeli elections, bearing in mind that there will be no peace plan without some concessions, it will be used against him in the elections.

The second point is whether Rabin is determined to engage in the peace process under this current U.S. Administration or will it be better for him to wait for a new administration. Sometimes, he considers that this administration is lenient with him, which is a fact. This administration adopts most of his proposals while another administration might not be so lenient.

Another point of hesitation is Gaza and Jericho. Sometimes he realizes that the only way to save the Gaza-Jericho accord is through progress in the peace process with Lebanon and Syria to create a link that might have a positive effect on the internal situation in Gaza and Jericho. At other times, he fears that raising this issue now in light of the disturbances in Gaza and Jericho will not [words indistinct] Israeli public opinion.

Speaker Birri Calls For Solidarity To Free South

NC0903154995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference held at the Chamber of Deputies today, Speaker Nabih Birri said the Lebanese people must show their solidarity to show that UN Security Council Resolution 425 is a Lebanese, Arab, and international necessity to secure peace in the Middle East.

Speaker Birri asserted that we will not allow peace to reign in any region of the world if Lebanon does not enjoy peace too. He said he feels the liberation of the south is imminent thanks to our national unity. He said that no aerial, naval, or land blockade will separate Lebanon from Syria.

Speaker Birri disclosed that U.S. officials, including Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, have supported Resolution 425 in private meetings, but when they leave the meetings, they do not mention the resolution.

He noted that the Day of Solidarity with the South on 14 March will be within earshot of Secretary Warren Christopher, who will stop over in Damascus. However, he explained that we want Christopher not only to hear to also to react to it.

Speaker Birri invited the Chamber of Deputies to hold an extraordinary session on 14 March to be attended by the president and the government. He announced a series of steps to support the steadfastness of the south.

Hizballah on Anniversary of Israel 'Invasion'

NC1303093995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has issued a statement to mark the 17th anniversary of the Israeli invasion of

1978, which involved a broad sector of the south, left dozens of defenseless villagers martyred and hundreds of others wounded, caused severe damage and devastation, and resulted in an exodus following the horrible massacres that were a fundamental goal of the aggression, the statement said.

The Hizballah statement pointed out that dealing direct blows to the occupying enemy and working hard to rock the structures that it has set up is the sound logic that constitutes the acceptable response to the occupation, the response that will vanquish it. This is the logic pursued by the Islamic Resistance through the struggle of its mujahidin, the blood of its martyrs, the willpower of our steadfast folks, and their faith in it, the statement added.

The statement noted the absence of any official policy to consolidate the steadfastness and resistance of the people in the occupied zone, which constitutes a shortcoming in the face of a fundamental national duty for which festivities cannot compensate. There are institutions set up to back the popular resistance against the Zionist occupation but their resources are appropriated in the areas other than [words indistinct], particularly in the occupied zone, which, for 17 years, the enemy has been striving to blend in with the usurping Zionist entity's cycle of life. Now there is no longer any justification for the official shortcomings in the direct action in the field and in the genuine response to the aggression. This is the direction in which the state institutions should gear their work and activity, instead of limiting that activity to propaganda.

The statement added: It is incomprehensible that the Lebanese state has shied away from adopting the required legal measures against the traitors and murderers, the occupation's agents, who are [word indistinct] against our folks. Is it not strange that these agents were kicked out of the enemy's parliament after being [words indistinct], while the Lebanese Government has failed to

put any of them on trial on the specific charge of treason? Since such a trial is both essential and natural, failure to hold it leads the gangs of treason and murder to sink deeper into their sins and carry their tyranny to excess. This is bound to weaken our people's resistance to the occupation and restrict its escalation. If so, what is the reason for delaying their trial?

Pushing these gangs toward collapse and deterioration will prompt an unconditional withdrawal by the enemy, as the Islamic Resistance's qualitative strikes have demonstrated. The military and political leaders have [words indistinct].

The statement went on to say that failure to put the criminal traitors on trial will tempt the enemy to hold on to the occupied zone and practically annex it to the Zionist entity by merging this gang into the Lebanese military establishment. Is treason not a crime for which the perpetrator deserves to be put on trial? Will support for our people in the occupied zone materialize by keeping these criminals free to wreak havoc, by giving them hope that their crimes will be forgiven, or by rewarding them? Traitors must not be (?protected) by the homeland. Is it being faithful to the martyrs and prisoners of the al-Khiyam Prison to keep their torturers and murderers free? Our folks demand the trial of the traitors. The prisoners of al-Khiyam Prison are crying out: Try the murderers.

The statement concluded by saying that on the anniversary of aggression and occupation, the Islamic Resistance pledges to all Lebanese that it will continue its jihad against the Zionist occupation until it is fully and unconditionally repelled. While saluting the heroic mujahidin in the al-Khiyam Prison, we assure them that the dawn of victory will dispel the darkness of captivity. And soon the unjust assailants will learn of the vicissitudes awaiting their affairs. So lose not heart, nor fall into despair; for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. [Koranic verse] Let every day be a day of resistance.

Warren Christopher Begins Visit With Leaders

Arrives in Damascus

JN1303055695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus last night. He was received at Damascus International Airport by the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Protocols and America Departments, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Shar's Absence Explained

JN1303125095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was not present to welcome his U.S. counterpart on his arrival in Damascus. In statements to Radio Monte Carlo, responsible sources denied that his absence was a specific stand by the Syrian capital or a sign reflecting tension in Syrian-U.S. relations which started to improve not long ago. The sources said that the reason for al-Shar's absence is that the U.S. secretary of state arrived very early this morning, several hours behind schedule. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Warren Christopher

JN1303113395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace at 1115 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador to the United States Walid al-Mu'allim, U.S. Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross, and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross attended the meeting.

Al-Shar': Syria 'Appreciates' U.S. Efforts

MM1303124195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Sawzan Abu-Husayn: "Faruq al-Shar' Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Israel Not Ready for Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Copenhagen—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that Damascus welcomes U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the Middle East. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Copenhagen where he is attending the summit conference on social development, al-Shar' said that "Syria appreciates the U.S. efforts but it seems that Israel is not ready to sign a peace treaty with Syria, particularly as it always raises issues which distance the peace process."

Al-Shar' said that "Israel is requesting normal relations but Syria believes that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 constitute the basis of peace. When Israel withdraws we will see what happens."

The Syrian minister said that "Israel is trying to push all the Arab states toward signing papers in return for other papers giving it the right to maintain the current situation." He asked: "Who would guarantee these things? Israel had signed a declaration of principles with the Palestinians but did not honor its commitments and did not honor its own signatures. So what is Syria supposed to do now?"

He expressed hope that "Israel would grasp the true meaning of peace and would be serious and prepared to reach a final settlement." He said that "Syria's participation in the social development conference was mainly to confirm termination of the occupation of the territory of others as a basic element of social and economic development."

Radio: Optimism About Christopher Tour Unwarranted

JN1203161195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 12 Mar 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warren Christopher's current regional tour and the world interest in it do not indicate that anything new will be achieved or that any qualitative headway in the peace process will be made. No specific vision has been developed by the U.S. Administration that could serve as a working plan for a comprehensive peace, in which the United States itself has a paramount interest. Yet, many parts of the Israeli and U.S. mass media have been surrounding this tour with optimism and alluding that progress achieved by Mr. Christopher in Israel will be conveyed to Damascus.

It is believed that an objective that is not void of malice lies behind this marketing of optimism. The abovementioned media want to allude that Israel has offered everything that will end the deadlock. Consequently, this is seen as meaning Israel has thrown the ball of peace into the other party's court. So, when the peace process is not resumed and when no change in the current stalemate takes place, then world public opinion will blame Syria and its stand, which is described by the Israelis as inflexible because Syria demands that its occupied territory be restored in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, nothing more, nothing less.

We do not believe the current maneuvers, allegations, worn-out ideas, unrealistic proposals, and conditional or defective visions that have been repeated by those who have given nothing to peace but lip service since the end of the Madrid conference have been of any use to the cause of peace. If this is the case, then how would the

matter appear in view of the numerous facts that the world has discovered over the past years? Most prominent among those facts are:

First: Israel does not want a just, comprehensive peace and does not want to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Consequently it does not want to withdraw from the occupied territories. What it wants—and some of this has already been achieved—is the Israeli way of peace at the expense of Arab territory and the Arab nation and its future, its Arabism, and its Islam.

Second: The U.S. Administration has not yet risen to the level of a full partner and honest broker, despite the relentless efforts it has exerted and the considerable time it has devoted to advance the peace process. Therefore, the U.S. Administration is now, more than ever, required to adopt a firmer, more responsible, and more comprehensive position to build a just, comprehensive Middle East peace that meets everybody's interest, safeguards everybody's security, and protects everybody's present and future.

When we urge such a role on the U.S. Administration, it is because we are aware of the weight and responsibility of the United States toward the shaping of the new world order and the codification of its concepts into fair and equal laws, and because we are aware of the nature of Israel and its leaders' expansionist and settlement ambitions. Nothing is more indicative of that than the way the geopolitical map of the region has developed since the establishment of Israel, as well as what southern Lebanon has been witnessing for over one month.

Al-Shar' Returns to Damascus From Copenhagen Summit

JN1203213395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening from Copenhagen, having led the Syrian delegation to the World Summit for Social Development in the Danish capital between 6-12 March.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Visits

Arrives With Message From Fahd

JN1103091195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in

Damascus this morning. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, the Saudi ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff members.

In a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, the Saudi foreign minister said he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, within the framework of continuous consultation between the leaderships of the two fraternal countries in all circumstances and times in the interest of the two peoples and the causes of the Arab nation.

Al-Asad Receives Sa'ud

JN1103160195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1245 GMT today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Balla', Saudi ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered a letter to President al-Asad from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, within the framework of the ongoing consultation and cooperation between the two countries. The letter deals with issues of mutual interest. President al-Asad asked him to deliver a letter in reply.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with current regional and Arab issues and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Sa'ud Departs Damascus

JN1103162095 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus this afternoon at the end of a one-day visit to Syria.

Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; ranking foreign ministry officials; and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff saw him off at Damascus International Airport.

Afghanistan

German Embassy Hit in Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD1103174595 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the last hours of their existence, 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari's militia targeted most savagely the city of Kabul. A military correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports: Concurrent to their defeat, 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari's militia fired into the crowded central areas of the city this afternoon, which caused the martyrdom and wounding of dozens of the people. One of the rockets hit the embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, where it caused a fire. Another rocket hit an apartment block in Jada-ye Mohammad Jan Khan and caused a fire. Yet another of the militia's rockets landed in a crowded market in Deh-Afghanan, where it caused the most tragic incident of the past month, in which several of our compatriots were martyred.

Radio Reports Turkish Embassy Shelled, on Fire

LD1103170495 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Latest reports indicate that the Turkish embassy in Kabul has been hit and that the embassy building is burning.

Kabul Fighting Results in 'New Phase' of Civil War

LD1203121395 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 12 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the escalation of fighting between the forces of Jam'iyat-e Eslami and the Taleban group, the Afghan civil war has entered a new phase. It is said that the attacks by those two forces against each other's positions have been the fiercest so far. The Taleban group, which has been stationed 15 km from Kabul for the last 20 days, practically has become one of the main warring sides. In fact, the past 20 days have afforded an opportunity to the head of the Afghan Government, Borhanoddin Rabbani, to make all his calculations regarding whether to step down from power peacefully or fight the Taleban. Indications are that Borhanoddin Rabbani has chosen the second option and the 20-day period has merely served as an opportunity for renewing his forces. On that account the Taleban group has announced that it is now convinced that Borhanoddin Rabbani is not willing to step down.

According to some analyses, Rabbani is apprehensive he might not find his proper niche in a future power structure if he steps down. That is because the declared policies of the Taleban are based on putting aside all the

Afghan groups from power. Thus, the suspicion that dominates the Afghan leaders is preventing any compromise among them.

Meanwhile, political analysts assess the Taleban group's clash with the forces of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami as premature, since the Taleban entered action with a slogan for establishing peace in Afghanistan and a force that takes such a duty upon itself must act more patiently.

A more crucial issue is the fighting between the government forces and the Taleban group, which has plunged UN efforts for establishing peace in Kabul in ambiguity. Even if the Taleban group succeeds in a relative superiority in the fighting, not only does their declared policy run contrary to the UN plan, but also their strategy—which they follow—is essentially not compatible with Afghan society. That can bring with it the dissatisfaction of other jihadi groups.

Notwithstanding all that, several principles must be born in mind. First, a power balance between the warring sides prevents one side from eliminating the other from the Afghan political scene. Second, any measure for establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan, as well as determining the future policy and government of that country, without the participation of all the parties and groups in the power structure, is doomed to failure. And finally, as long as the Afghan parties and jihadi groups do not give priority to the national interests of that country over their own personal and their group's interests, one cannot be hopeful about establishing peace in Afghanistan. In such a situation, the main loser in the war will be the innocent Afghan nation.

West Kabul Clashes 'Intensified'

LD1203121495 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Kabul indicate that fighting has intensified between forces loyal to Ahmad Shah Masud and those of the Taleban. Masud's forces are reported to have bombed the Taleban's positions. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad:

Government sources say that in yesterday's fighting, one of the heaviest clashes in the past six months, government forces used artillery, fighter planes, and helicopter gunships to push back the Taleban to Khayrabad and Rish-khur region, and occupied their positions.

There has been no detailed report regarding casualties of the fighting but the spokesman for Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense reported that enemy forces were pushed out of the Russian Embassy, the Davoud Aman palace, and Habibiyyeh school, and that government forces have occupied Chuk-e Koteh Sangi and Chuk-e Dezfuli. These claims have been confirmed by independent sources.

Afghan sources say that the recent developments and the government victories in southwest Kabul could further delay the United Nation's plan for the transfer of power.

However, UN sources indicate that the organization's peace delegation continues to hope that the Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani will transfer his powers to a provisional body by 21 March.

Meanwhile, latest reports from Afghanistan indicate that Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye and Harakat-e Eslami forces are fighting the forces of 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf in west Kabul.

Taleban Bombards Kabul With Rockets

LD1203165695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kabul city was savagely bombarded with rockets today by the Taleban group. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports: During the course of the day, the Taleban group targeted various parts of Kabul city with blind rockets, which resulted in dozens of the oppressed people of Kabul being martyred or injured. The rockets were fired into the city from the directions of Khairabad and Sange Naweshta. The Taleban group, which is exploiting the esteemed name of the Taleb, is in reality the criminals who were in the service of the Russians during the Red Army invasion of Afghanistan and are now rocketing the Muslim people of Kabul with total ruthlessness. The group, which has emerged under demagogical slogans, now stains their hands with the blood of the Muslim people of Kabul and grants sanctuary to [words indistinct] the murderers of the Muslims and helps them. The group has not learned from the fate of Mazari and has embarked on confrontation with the Islamic state, which is the embodiment of the will of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. It will not be long before they are also eliminated from Afghanistan.

Opposition Leader Mazari Said Captured by Taleban

LD1203155295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent visited the conquered areas in west Kabul and the following are his observations: [passage omitted] The youths with grins on their faces were visiting Kabul University—the greatest education center in Afghanistan—but on first sight their hopes for the resumption of teaching in the university next spring turned to disappointment because of the tremendous destruction. Squads of tanks and military trucks driving mojahedin were proud of their success in the mopping up operation in the west of Kabul, and fired in the air because they had carried out their task so well, which was the crushing of the state's opponents. But seeing the destruction in Kota-e Sangi, Dehmazang, and the surrounding area, which was a prosperous area of the city, senior state officials were terrified; and the responsibility for the reconstruction of the area made them nervous. No doubt this will worry and terrify the cabinet

of Afghanistan. Exactly three weeks after Golboddin Hekmatyar's escape from the south of Kabul, 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari was forced to flee after obstinate resistance. According to an unconfirmed report he was captured, yesterday [11 March], by Taleban while he had covered himself with a woman's chadur. The underground trenches and a long communication ditch constructed by Mazari proved interesting to every spectator, and this divulges the reason for his five days' resistance: First, three days of air and artillery attacks by the state, the fourth day the scaling-down of the attack to give Mazari's men an opportunity to surrender to the state, and eventually on the fifth day all western areas of Kabul were swept in a three-prong ground attack.

When we arrived at Darolaman Palace at 1000, the Islamic army artillery started firing. It was aiming at heights in Khairabad, and the Taleban were responding.

To the surprise of everyone, among all the destruction 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari's residence in Karta-e Seh was untouched. On my return we saw that a number of people were positioned along the road that linked west Kabul to the city center to check vehicles and to prevent the looting of locals' property. They were serious people and were members of Ahmad Shah Masud's guard.

Hezb-e Wahdat Confirms Capture

LD1303130495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Intense clashes continued between Afghan warring sides in Kabul. According to our correspondent, the war stricken city of Kabul was hit by tens of missiles yesterday. No report has been yet received on the probable casualties and losses. The report added that the government forces' planes and artillery units yesterday targeted the positions of Taleban group in southern Kabul, forcing them to retreat.

This is at a time when the Afghan president Borhanoddin Rabbani yesterday accepted to resign from his post in a week's time and transfer power to an interim council.

At the same time, the representative of Afghanistan's Wahdat-e Eslami Party Office in Tehran today, in an interview with our correspondent, announced that the party's secretary general Abdol 'Ali Mazari has been taken captive by the Taleban group.

Hezb-e Wahdat Asks Taleban To Release Mazari

LD1203220395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The vicinities of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, were the scene of heavy clashes on Sunday [12 March] among the rival groups.

During these clashes, which have been reported to be intense in the southwestern areas of Kabul, the joint

forces of the government and two other parties—Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement]—have pushed back the forces of Taleban from the western and southwestern areas of Kabul.

According to the government sources, simultaneously with these clashes, Afghan Government fighter planes targeted the positions of Taleban groups around Kabul several times and inflicted heavy blows on them.

Meanwhile, Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami reported on Sunday the capture of party leader 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari at the hands of Taleban forces.

The statement issued by Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan says: Mr. 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, leader of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, was captured after several months of bravery and resistance against the aggressors to the sanctity of Shi'as in the western part of Kabul and the dastardly attacks by Taleban.

The representative council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami asked the leaders of Taleban, while ensuring the health of Mr. Mazari, to free him and the other Shi'as who are in captivity.

Rabbani Receives UN Peace Delegation

LD1203174395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press office of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, accompanied by esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud, received last night a UN peace delegation led by esteemed 'Abdol Satar Sirat. Recent changes and the political situation in the country were discussed during the meeting, and a new proposal was put forward to ensure a total peace.

The esteemed president considered the proposed views as positive and promised any cooperation for their realization. The envisaged commission will consist of national personalities from outside and inside the country. According to another report, the peace delegation left Kabul today.

Mohammadi Dissociates Himself From Rabbani

LD1203010995 Tehran IRNA in English 2341 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Mar. 11, IRNA—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has lost the support of one of his main allies, Mawlawi Nabi Mohammadi who has switched his loyalty to religious student militia, Afghan sources said here Saturday [12 March].

The chief of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan has asked his party members to quit the posts in the cabinet of Rabbani, Mohammadi's son told IRNA Saturday morning.

Mohammadi has been advisor to Rabbani and was considered one of the close confidants of Rabbani.

Ahmad Nabi, said his party parted ways with Rabbani after having lengthy negotiations with Taleban but failed to give details of the talks.

Political observers here are attaching great importance to Mohammadi's parting of ways with Rabbani whose forces are locked in fierce fighting with Taleban and forces of Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat.

Rabbani To Attend ECO Summit Despite Kabul Unrest

LD1103142795 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, March 11, IRNA—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani is due in Pakistan on Monday [13 March] to take part in the third Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit meet (March 14-15).

An Afghan diplomat told IRNA here Saturday that the decision by Rabbani had been taken despite the present unrest in Kabul.

The south and west of the capital city of Kabul has been scene of clashes between government, Wahdat-e Eslami and Taliban forces since five days ago. The fighting began following an offensive by forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud on Wahdat-e Eslami's positions on Monday.

The diplomat disclosed that a high ranking delegation led by Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lefra'i is also to arrive here to attend the ECO foreign ministers' session, which is to be convened on March 13.

Founded by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, the ten-nation ECO now groups Afghanistan as well as the republics of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

India

Spokesman Denies Involvement in Karachi Murders

BK1003124795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, March 10 (AFP)—The Indian government on Friday [10 March] rejected the charges of a Pakistani politician that it had masterminded the murder of two US consulate officials in Karachi.

An official spokesman, rejecting the charges that India's external intelligence agency was behind Wednesday's killings, said the allegation was "irresponsible, motivated and baseless."

Abdullah Shah, chief minister of the Pakistani province of Sindh, accused India's Research and Analysis (RAW) wing of hatching the plot which led to Wednesday's gunning down of two US consulate staff. A third was wounded.

The killings in Karachi were the first of western diplomatic personnel since the outbreak of ethnic and sectarian violence more than a year ago in the troubled southern Pakistani port city.

"There is no length of absurdity Pakistan would not go to defame India," the external affairs ministry spokesman said. "The remarks (of Shah) are not worthy of a response," he added.

Islamabad has frequently accused agents of RAW, India's external intelligence agency, of fomenting the violence in Karachi. New Delhi has denied the charge.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim guerrillas waging a secessionist campaign in the Indian zone of Kashmir.

Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to the campaign which has left more than 10,000 people dead in the divided Himalayan state since 1989.

The two south Asian arch-rivals have fought three wars since the subcontinent's 1947 independence from British rule, which was followed by its partition into India and Pakistan.

U.S. Urged To Lead Antiterrorism 'Crusade'

*BK1103120995 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi
10 Mar 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "Terrorism and the U.S."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The broad daylight murder of the U.S. diplomats in Karachi again proves conclusively that Pakistan is becoming a stronghold of Islamic terrorism. No matter where it is active, Islamic terrorism is now being conducted from its headquarters in Pakistan. Its headquarters used to be in Iran and Libya, but now, under the facade of Islam, it has shifted to Pakistan. The most shocking fact, however, is the attitude of the U.S., which is fully aware of these facts but still does not pressure Pakistani leaders to discard their policy of supporting terrorism. Although Benazir Bhutto has outwardly expressed her deep shock at the murder of the U.S. diplomats and vehemently denounced it as a well-thought out terrorist conspiracy, in her heart she knows that she and her predecessors have contributed much to the prosperity of terrorism in Pakistan. If she was genuinely concerned about such gory bloodbaths and ruthless murders of the innocent, she would not have allowed the existence of camps to train terrorists in Pakistan, which has now become the headquarters of the terrorism that is being unleashed all over the subcontinent.

There is not even a shadow of a doubt that Pakistan has now many hideouts where terrorist from Islamic countries are trained and dispatched to many countries, especially India. The Afghan and Sudanese terrorists now active in Kashmir are its product. Using terrorists to create disturbances in India is a very old policy of Pakistan, and it was this policy that resulted in the 1948 terrorists attacks on India. Unfortunately, whenever India tried to show the U.S. the real face of sponsored terrorism, it is always ignored. So, the result is that the U.S. itself is now suffering from its dire consequences. What is amazing is that despite the suffering, it is not taking any concrete steps to stop this menace. It is not it is incapable. However, to do this would mean that the U.S. has to abandon its pro-Pakistan policies and exert strong pressure on Pakistan to stop supporting and sponsoring terrorism. What is queer is the U.S. Administration's definition of terrorism or the sponsorship of terrorism. Therefore, it is high time the U.S. defined terrorism, as the Pakistani terrorists are growing bolder.

A fact of terrorism is that he who takes this path cannot leave it easily. It is equally true for a group or society or even a country. Direct or indirect support for terrorism creates big hurdles in the way of one willing to renounce it. Hence, it is not easy for Pakistani rulers to get away from this terrorism trap. More so because Pakistan is the base of fundamentalist Islam and it is fundamentalist tendencies that make terrorism prosper. Of course, a society or nation which is fundamentalist becomes extremely intolerant and this intolerance only creates a fertile ground for terrorism. This is what is happening in Pakistan. From the way it nurtures and fosters Islamic terrorism, it is likely to endanger peace in the entire world. So, it is high time the whole world unites against Pakistan's terrorism sponsorship, with the U.S. leading the crusade. Islamic terrorism is the greatest threat to world peace and if not nipped in the bud, may plunge the whole world into violence, vengeance and blood. In such a situation, India would bear the brunt of this macabre violence.

5 Killed in Bihar Violence; Ballots Snatched

BK1103161595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Bihar, the first phase of assembly polls today ended amid reports of violence and snatching of ballot papers. Sixty to seventy percent of the voters exercised their franchise in the 88 assembly constituencies spread over 17 districts. At least five persons were killed in Gaya and Hazaribagh Districts in poll-related violence. The district magistrate of Hazaribagh was killed along with his driver at Mandu when their vehicle passed over a landmine. Reports of minor incidents of violence have also been received from Nawada and Jahanabad Districts. The election commission has said that complaints received on poll rigging are being inquired into. The state home secretary said reports of snatching of ballot papers were received from 34 places

while at 17 polling stations polling had to be discontinued. All India Radio Patna correspondent Ashok Sinha reports that the poll boycott call of the outlawed MCC [Moist Communist Center] party had no impact.

In Arunachal Pradesh, 70 percent polling was reported. All the 60 constituencies in the state went to the polls today. The polling was peaceful and arrangements have been made to bring back ballot boxes and keep them in safe custody in 19 counting centers. The counting would take place on Wednesday.

Results of Assembly Elections in 3 States

BK1303021795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0040 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hectic political activity has begun in Gujarat, Orissa, and Maharashtra for the formation of new governments with most results of the assembly elections having come in. In Gujarat, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has already gained an absolute majority, while in Orissa the Congress-I was only five short to achieve it when reports last came in. In Maharashtra, no political party is in a position to get an absolute majority. The chief ministers of Gujarat and Orissa have tendered their resignation paving the way for the installation of new governments. The meetings of the newly elected legislators of various political parties have been convened in the respective state capitals to elect their new leaders.

In Orissa, of the three latest results declared two have gone to the Janata Dal, and one has been bagged by an Independent. The state chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, of the Janata Dal has retained the Bhubaneswar seat defeating his nearest BJP rival, Mr. Somaranjan Patnaik, by a margin of about 36,700 votes. An Independent candidate, Mr. Chintamani Dyan Samant Ray, has won the Chikiti seat while the Berhampur seat has gone to the Janata Dal candidate, Mr. Ramesh Chandra C. Patnaik. A former minister and the Congress-I candidate, Mr. Niranjana Patnaik, has been elected from Ramachandrapur constituency. The Balasore constituency has been retained by Mr. Arun Dey an Independent candidate. The latest party position in Orissa is: Total seats: 147; election held: 147; results declared: 127; Congress-I - 69; Janata Dal - 38; BJP - eight; CPI [Communist Party of India] - one; JMM [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha] - four; Independents and others - seven. Twenty results are yet to come in.

Mr. Biju Patnaik has conceded defeat of his party and tendered his resignation. The governor, Mr. Satya Narayan Reddy, has accepted his resignation and asked him to continue till the new ministry is sworn in. The state Congress-I legislature party is to meet in Bhubaneswar to elect the new leader. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Ahmad Patel, and Mr. Santosh Mohan Deb will be attending the meeting as party observers.

In Gujarat, only six results are yet to come in. The latest party position in the state is: Total seats: 182; election

held: 182; results declared: 176; BJP - 119; Congress-I - 44; Independents and others - 13. The newly elected legislators are meeting in Gandhinagar to elect their leader. Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr. Bal Thackeray will be attending as observers. Meanwhile, the chief minister, Mr. Chhabildas Mehta, who submitted his resignation to the state governor, Dr. Saroop Singh, has been asked to continue till the new government is formed. The governor has also dissolved the old assembly.

In Maharashtra, with 44 results still to be declared the Congress-I has emerged as the single largest party. The latest tally is: Total seats: 288; elections held: 288; results declared: 244; Congress-I - 71; BJP - 52; Shiv Sena - 55; CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] - two; Janata Dal - nine; Samajwadi Party - three; PWP [Peasants Workers Party] - six; Independents and others - 46. Of the remaining 44 seats, the Shiv Sena was leading in 17, the BJP in 12, the Congress-I in 10, Janata Dal - three, Independents and others - two. A joint meeting of the newly elected Shiv Sena - BJP combine which has bagged 107 seats so far will be held in Bombay this morning to elect the leader. The Shiv Sena chief, Mr. Bal Thackeray, and the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, will be attending the meeting.

The Congress-I legislature party is also meeting in Bombay today to elect its leader. The party president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has deputed Mr. Janardhana Poojary and Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar as observers at the meeting. Mr. Narasimha Rao yesterday reviewed the results of the assembly elections in the three states at a meeting with the party general secretaries and other office bearers.

Iran

Son of Late Ayatollah Khomeyni Hospitalized

LD1203112395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a sudden illness, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin, Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni [son of late Ayatollah Khomeyni] was hospitalized at Jamaran's Baqiatollah heart hospital where the eminent leader of the revolution, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, visited him at noon today and was informed of the treatment of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin, Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

The office of the the esteemed leader has called on the revolutionary Muslim community to prayer for the recovery of this valuable reminder of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

Meanwhile, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri also arrived at the hospital at noon and visited Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin, Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

Khomeyni Suffered 'Heart Stroke'

LD1203173295 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—The pulse and blood pressure of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed

Ahmad Khomeyni [son of late Ayatollah Khomeyni], have become normal and his brain is active fortunately, head of the medical team in charge of his treatment, Dr. Hassan Arefi said here Sunday [12 March] evening.

According to Arefi the son of the late Imam Khomeyni was in normal condition until early hours in the morning (02:30) and was talking with his family, but at 08:00 when his family came to his room they were alarmed to find his breathing and heartbeat apparently stopped.

His family immediately called on Baqiyatollah Hospital near his house and the doctor on duty rushed to check his condition and had the hojjat ol-eslam admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit, said Arefi.

Arefi said that he along with a 30-men medical team at once started treatment and managed to revive his heartbeat by means of medical equipment and artificial respiration.

The head of the medical team diagnosed Hoj. Khomeyni's condition as a heart stroke, yet, he added the cerebral problem had occurred between 02:30 and 08:00 hours in the morning.

Arefi called on the people to pray for the recovery of the son of the late imam and said the medical team was making all possible efforts.

Faces 'Immense Problems'

NC1303063395 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Arefi, the head of the medical team treating Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, told our correspondent this morning about his patient's latest condition: Ahmad Khomeyni's respiratory system and heart had stopped, so the doctors are facing immense problems with regard to his liver, circulatory system, and respiratory system.

He explained that the medical team, consisting of all kinds of specialists, is trying its best to solve the problems. He added: The brain and nervous system are not working but the heart is beating.

He stressed that the medical team needs the prayers of the Islamic ummah for the swift recovery of this scion of his eminence the imam.

Rafsanjani Visits Khomeyni Twice

LD1303071795 *Tehran IRNA in English 0619 GMT 13 Mar 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late Imam Khomeyni, in the hospital for the second time Sunday and was briefed on his condition.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni was hospitalized with heart and respiratory problems Sunday morning.

Later on the day, head of the medical team in charge of his treatment Dr. Hassan Arefi said that the pulse and blood pressure of Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni have become normal and his brain is active.

Dr. Arefi and a 30-man medical team started treatment immediately after Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni was hospitalized at Tehran's Baqiyatollah Hospital No. 2 Sunday morning.

Brain Fails to 'Refunction'

LD1303111995 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Arefi, head of the team in charge of treating Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, has made a statement on his health:

[Begin Arefi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The health of Hajj Ahmad Khomeyni, regarding the digestive system, its bleeding, and bleeding in other parts, is better. The medical team continues its intense work in the room where specialists have gathered, God willing, to solve the medical problems. As I reported earlier, however, his great difficulty is with the brain. The difficulty continues and the brain has failed to refunction. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Begin 'Fath-4' Military Exercises

LD1203123395 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A large-scale maneuver, code-named Fath-4 [Victory-4] started in an extensive northern part of the Persian Gulf this morning.

The maneuvers are being held with the participation of the brave troops of the naval forces of the [Islamic Revolution's Guards] Corps and the Army, as well as the fast-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The maneuvers are for training purposes, upgrading combat capabilities, coordinating command levels and amphibious operations.

The maneuvers will continue in extensive northern parts of the Persian Gulf for four days.

The maneuvers include deep diving operations for identifying and marking enemy positions, heavy bombardment by the fleet and the gun boats, bombardment by fighter-bombers of an imaginary enemy's positions of concentration, and amphibious operations for attacking and mopping-up operations in the region.

Operations during the first day of the Victory-4 maneuvers, held in the presence of senior military commanders, included concentration of troops, inspection of naval equipment, control of damage sustained by the nonactive defense and underwater defense.

Commentary Blames CIA for Karachi Bombing

NC1203184095 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic* 1750 GMT 12 Mar 95

[Station commentary: "The Characteristics of American Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Forty-eight hours after the killing of two American diplomats in Karachi, elements in the American Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] embarked on an indiscriminate act by detonating a bomb during Friday prayers in Karachi, killing and wounding not less than 40 persons.

Washington's ability to carry out lightning terrorist operations surprises no one. The recent explosion in Karachi shows beyond doubt that America is constantly prepared to shed people's blood and carry out terrorist operations that claim innocent victims just to vent its rage and wrath.

Although no party has claimed responsibility for shooting the two American diplomats, and while arrest campaigns and interrogations of suspects continue, American officials without warning and before conducting investigations detonated a bomb at the scene of Friday prayers in Karachi. More than 40 Shiites of Karachi were killed and wounded in the explosion. It is not known why Washington took innocent people as its target.

It is regrettable that for unknown reasons, Pakistani policemen too fired on Pakistani Muslims who fled the scene of the explosion in panic. More people fell victim as a result.

All the Friday events in Karachi show that the Washington politicians need no investigations or probes to find those who carried out last Wednesday's [8 March] operation against its diplomats. It makes no difference to them who falls victim to their terrorist acts, because the operation itself and its victims, even if they are innocent, are necessary to quench their fury and malice toward the people of Pakistan and all Muslim peoples.

Friday's operation in Karachi provides another picture of the characteristics of American terrorism, which issues a death warrant against the entire Pakistani people, regardless of the motives for the attacks against the American interests and spies.

However, were the two American diplomatic spies not victims of the competition among spying networks in Karachi? Was America itself not behind their murder in

order to trigger a new phase of violence and crime in Pakistan? Does Washington have any justification for Friday's crime in Karachi?

Yes, these and dozens of other questions come to mind today. They certainly point the finger of accusation at Washington, its agents, and mercenaries. What happened in Karachi on Friday has gone beyond the limits of diplomatic immunity. The U.S. lexicon of terrorism makes no mention of the sovereignty of states or of the law. Moreover, the operation proves that Washington is simply following the law of the jungle whenever it wants to satisfy its whims and aggressive arrogance.

IRNA Cites Egyptian Paper's Anti-U.S. Comments

LD1203224395 *Tehran IRNA in English* 2211 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—Despite the fact that reliable international circles are certain about the Zionist regime's possession of at least 220 nuclear warheads, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his current tour of the Middle East is trying to sell to the Arabs the idea of indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Over the recent weeks the Arab countries' press, specially that of Egypt, has blasted the U.S. policies toward ban on production and possession of nuclear weapons.

Washington has come under increasing criticism for its failure to make the Zionist regime sign the NPT and for its exerting of pressure on Arab countries to sign the treaty.

The editor-in-chief of the Cairo-based Egyptian magazine, AL-MUSAWWAR, who shares views with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, says that all evidences point toward the fact that the U.S. is exerting pressure on certain regional countries in a bid to make them sign the treaty and accept indefinite extension of it.

Egypt, a U.S. ally, has threatened that in case of the Zionist regime's refusal to consider the NPT, Cairo will not renew its signature to the treaty.

Washington fears that Persian Gulf Littoral states and other Arab countries would take the cue from Cairo and refuse to sign the NPT.

Of late, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Sudan, Qatar, Bahrain and Libya have supported Cairo's stance in this regard.

Cairo demands that the Zionist regime sign an official statement declaring the precise time for its observance of the NPT and to open its nuclear installations either to international inspection teams or to Egyptian ones.

Cairo also wants Israel to enter into negotiations for formulation of a draft agreement for annihilation of weapons of mass destruction.

Meeting with Mubarak on Thursday [9 March], Christopher, who is on a Middle East tour, tried to convince him to sign the NPT during the conference due to be held in Geneva next April for review and extension of the treaty.

According to the discriminatory clauses of the NPT which many world countries resent, the five nuclear-power countries, the U.S. Britain, China, France and the former Soviet Union, are entitled to possess nuclear weapons.

Egyptian Foreign Minister, 'Amr Musa, following the Mubarak-Christopher meeting said Cairo and Washington could not settle the nuclear problem, even though Egypt does not oppose the treaty, because of the Zionist regime's nuclear programmes which are beyond the internationally accepted system.

At the same time the Zionist regime's Foreign Minister, Shim'on Peres repeatedly stressed that Israel does not believe in the NPT.

In a bid to justify its nuclear policies, the Zionist regime has recently made baseless claims of what it calls Iran's secret nuclear threat, despite the fact that Iran is a signatory to the NPT and has opened its installations to inspection teams from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The inspection teams have repeatedly confirmed that Iran's nuclear programme is of peaceful nature. It is worth noting that the NPT entitles its signatories to engage in peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy with help from member states.

Rafsanjani Statement on Islamabad ECO Conference

LD1303114795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at the head of a delegation, left today for Pakistan to attend the Islamabad conference of the heads of member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. [passage omitted] [video shows his airport departure]

Before leaving, he commented on the topics to be discussed with the heads of ECO member states. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] Our main discussion will be about ECO. We have made a number of decisions during the ECO conference held in Turkey. We passed a number of resolutions and their methods of implementation will be discussed in Pakistan. Bilateral relations will of course also be discussed. We have important issues to discuss such as Afghanistan, Karabakh, Tajikistan, and Pakistan's current issues, the issue of Karachi and so on. This is a good opportunity, as the heads of state are gathered and will talk about these issues. We will not to limit our discussions to ECO

issues; naturally, international and regional issues will be discussed. Anyway, it is a necessary and important visit.

I wanted to remain in the country in light of the condition of our dear brother, Hajj Ahmad Khomeyni, who is not well. I pray to God to return him to good health. [end recording]

Velayati Addresses UN Summit on Social Development

LD1103143995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Addressing the UN Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen on Friday [10 March], Iran's Foreign Minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said: There can be no balanced development in the world without commitment to the sublime principles and values which make individual and national economic efforts meaningful. He termed the current international economic and monetary order as unsuitable for the development of third world states and stressed the need for fundamental changes in earlier methods and innovations in presenting new projects and sources.

It must be noted that the UN Summit on Social Development opened in Copenhagen, Denmark, on March 6th, with the attendance of delegates from 184 world states and will continue until Sunday March 12th.

It is expected that a project on allocating the international community aid to poor countries will be approved at the summit. However America is the only country which, on various pretexts, is openly trying to block its approval. Subject to U.S. consent to this project, which includes allocation of 0.7 percent of the gross national product of the developed states to the poor countries, a total of 110 billion dollars will be collected for the poor states annually.

At present the advanced states allocate only 0.35 percent of their GNP to the poor countries for aiding them, with the U.S. contribution being a mere 0.18 percent. Distribution of wealth in the world is already very unfair. While 20 percent of the world people possess 83 percent of the total wealth, another 20 percent of the people who come from the poor states own only 1.5 percent of the existing resources in the world.

According to the figures released by the UN recently, 1.3 billion people are suffering from absolute poverty in the world with the number of such indigents being constantly increased in various countries. Many experts believe that current poverty in the world states emanates from moral crisis and this socio-economic crisis can be resolved only through the return of the world community to spirituality and revival of moral and religious values.

Meets With Georgia's Shevardnadze

LD1103223695 Tehran IRNA in English 2216 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sideline of

the Copenhagen session on Saturday [11 March] met with the President of the Republic of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze.

Reviewing Iran-Georgia bilateral relations, the two sides expressed their satisfaction regarding the second economic joint commission soon to be held between the two countries.

In the meeting, Velayati informed Shevardnadze about Iran-Turkmenistan-Ukraine tripartite meeting due to be set up in Tehran in the near future.

Shevardnadze praised the Iranian interest in [words indistinct] the Republic of Georgia.

Holds Side Meetings, Returns

LD1203131495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who had travelled to Denmark to attend an international conference on social development returned to Tehran this morning. He said that such meetings were effective in contributing to the debate on the future of the world. [passage omitted]

During the conference Velayati met the Amir of Kuwait, the presidents of Georgia and Sudan, the prime ministers of the Vatican and the Czech Republic, and the foreign ministers of India, North Korea, Argentina, Malaysia, and Lebanon.

In the meeting, the Amir of Kuwait expressed satisfaction regarding relations between the two countries and had emphasized the need to expand cooperation. He also termed Iran an important and large country of the Persian Gulf, which could have an effective role in regional cooperation.

Diplomatic Relations Established With FYROM

LD1103134995 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March, 11, IRNA—Iran and Macedonia of the former Yugoslavia, which has been recognized as one of the U.N. members, [FYROM—Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] established diplomatic relations on Saturday [11 March] following the signing of two formal agreements.

The agreements were signed by the Iranian and Macedonian permanent representatives to the United Nations at the U.N. headquarters.

According to the documents exchanged between Iran and Macedonia, while respecting each other's independence and sovereignty, the two countries called for expansion and strengthening of bilateral ties on the basis of the U.N. Charter.

Macedonia was one of the six republics of former Yugoslavia which gained independence on September 7, 1991 after the people voted for its independence.

Macedonia has a population of two million, including one third of Muslims and the rest Christian orthodox.

Agreement Signed With Azeri Customs Officials

LD1103203895 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A memorandum of understanding was signed in a meeting here on Saturday [11 March] between director-generals of Iran and Azerbaijan customs departments, 'Abolhosseyn Vahhaji and (Kamaluddin Heidarov).

The two sides agreed on providing facilities for Iranian and Azeri passengers and tourists as well as taking measures for easing transit of goods. They also agreed on using Pileh Savar border for commercial and tourist customs services.

Exchange of information for preventing illegal passage of goods and smuggling of drugs, exchange of customs experts and holding courses in customs services for Azeri customs officers are among cases stated in the memorandum. It was also decided that Iran-Azerbaijan customs services be open all days of the week.

The officials agreed to hold annual meetings in order to review the progress made in their decisions.

Heidarov expressed hope that Baku could apply Iran's achievements in customs services for promoting customs services in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Prime Minister of Belarus Arrives in Tehran

LD1203164195 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Prime Minister of Belarus Mikhail Chyhir arrived in Tehran today and was greeted by First Vice-President Hasan Habibi at Mehrabad Airport.

Chyhir told reporters at the airport that political and trade relations between Tehran and Minsk should be strengthened.

He said the two states share cultural and political bonds something that should be consolidated through upgrading of mutual political and trade relations.

He expressed hope that his three-day visit to Iran would result in expanding bilateral ties.

Habibi said on his part that there the potentials of both countries have prepared the ground for expansion of mutual relations.

Officials Review Relations

NC1303083395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks between Belarus Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir and First Vice President Hasan Habibi reviewed bilateral ties and upgrading political, economic, and commercial relations.

During the meeting Habibi referred to the distinctive political and geographical location of Iran in the region and stressed the possibility of Belarus forging trade and commercial relations with Central Asia and the Far East by way of Iran.

First Vice President Habibi alluded to the need for contacts between the officials of the two countries and said visits between the two countries would be promoted by waiving the need for political [siyasi] visas.

He stressed: We are eager to forge cooperation on politico- economic issues as well as in the fields of culture, sports, and tourism.

During the meeting the Belarussian prime minister expressed the hope that bilateral political and economic relations would also broaden and added: We are interested in expanding relations with your country in commerce and transport.

The setting up of a joint economic commission was stressed at the conclusion of the first round of talks between the Belarussian prime minister and our country's first vice president. The Belarussian prime minister arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon at the head of a high-level politico-economic delegation.

Philippine President Arrives on Official Visit

LD1003172395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Fidel Ramos, the president of the Philippines, arrived in Tehran this evening. He was officially welcomed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During his short stay in Tehran, Ramos will be conferring with the president and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the expansion of the two countries' ties as well as international issues.

On his arrival in Tehran, Ramos expressed his pleasure over his visit and considered the two countries' long relations of 31 years standing as a proper capital for expanding those relations in all dimensions.

Ramos praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's active and crucial role for the consolidation and stability of peace in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf crisis, and its efforts for resolving the problems of the Muslims in the

world, including the Philippines, and said: The Philippine Government considers the strengthening of its relations with the great and historical country of Iran to be most important.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippine and said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] We have had much scientific, cultural, and commercial cooperation in the past and we have a good experience from the past. Our people are well- acquainted with your country.

We expect this visit by you and your delegation to give new impetus to our cooperation; particularly since ASEAN and ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] are two significant economic groups and we are members of those organizations. [end recording]

A high-ranking political and economic delegation is accompanying the Philippine president in his visit to Tehran, including the foreign affairs and trade and industry ministers, as well as the governor-general of Philippine's Muslim inhabited province.

Rafsanjani: Ties 'Still Growing'

LD1103125295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Fidel Ramos, the president of the Philippines, left Tehran this morning following a visit to our country. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani officially saw him off.

[Unidentified correspondent] At the end of the official visit by the Philippine president it was announced that the two countries have reached satisfactory agreements in the various trade and commercial fields.

According to a report by our correspondent, before leaving Tehran this morning Fidel Ramos met and conferred with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the meeting, where some of the political, economic, and cultural officials of the two countries also participated, the Philippines president thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its warm hospitality and, referring to the historical ties between Iran and the Philippines, said: Bilateral ties are still growing on the basis of mutual interests.

Pointing to the good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and member states of ASEAN, Mr. Ramos expressed the hope that those relations lead to the expansion of cooperation between that organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, where Iran is a founder member.

The Philippines president, describing that country's efforts for eliminating the problems of the Muslims in the Philippines, including the implementation of the

Shari'ah law [Islamic religious law], said: We are endeavoring to resolve the problems of the Muslims in the Moro region peacefully.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his thanks over the results obtained during the talks between the two countries' delegations, described them as opportune for expressing mutual reassurance regarding the continuation of friendly ties between the two countries.

The president recalled Iran's favorable geographic situation, possessing one of the best and surest transport routes around the Caspian Sea to the Central Asia and Caucasus regions, the navigational status, and the extensive and favorable road and railway transport systems as an effective combination for trade cooperation between the two countries.

Stressing the need for increasing cooperation among the Third World and the nonaligned states, the president said: Cooperation with the South-South Organization is one of the definite principles of the Nonaligned Movement, and cooperation in international forums toward eliminating the problems of the Third World and Asian countries must also increase.

He expressed the hope that the results of the talks by the Philippines President in Iran, and agreements reached during his visit initiate a long and effective action for the deepening of cooperation among the states in the two regions and the two nations.

At the end of the meeting, the commerce and Islamic guidance ministers, as well as the heads of the two countries' Chambers of Commerce and head of their joint committee signed the trade, cultural, and economic agreements in the presence of the two presidents.

Rafsanjani, Ramos Issue Joint Communiqué

LD1103131995 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT
11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A joint communiqué was issued here Saturday [11 March] at the end of the state visit of President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines to Iran.

The visit took place upon the invitation of Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani 10-11 March 1995.

The communiqué said that Ramos visited the shrine of Imam Khomeini as a mark of respect to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and laid the wreath over his grave.

Both sides, noting the unique favourable situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a transit point for trade with the Central Asian and Caucasian republics, emphasized on availing of this opportunity for expansion of trade between the Philippines and those republics.

Pointing to the recent establishment of the joint ministerial commission for cooperation in economics, agriculture and fisheries, mining and industry, trade, energy

and petrochemicals, science and technology, culture and sports and drug control, it encouraged exchange of visits between officials and private sectors in order to better identify trade opportunities.

Stressing on the continuation of purchase of Iranian oil, the communiqué further said that President Rafsanjani invited the private sector to look at potential products for trade, adding that both sides agreed to encourage and assist the formation of joint ventures to enhance bilateral trade.

President Ramos noting the excellent relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ASEAN member states, expressed hope that this relation will lead to the expansion of cooperation between ASEAN and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) of which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a founding member.

Due to the great importance the two countries attached to the role of free trade and industrial zones, such as the Qeshm Island in Iran and the Subic in the Philippines, they agreed to share their experiences and to assist potential investors from both sides.

Finally, the communiqué read, the two presidents witnessed signing of documents on trade and cultural agreements, agreed minutes of the first Iran-Philippine joint commission meeting of March 11, 1995 and a memorandum of understanding between Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as a memorandum of understanding between the Omni-Asia, Philsteel group of companies of the Philippines and National Iranian Steel Company.

Botha, South African Delegation Arrive for Talks

Energy Ministers Meet

LD1203133995 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT
12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—South African Minister of Energy and Mines Roelof Frederick Botha, in a meeting here on Sunday [12 March] with Iranian Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh, said Iran's experiences in the field of power supply could be valuable to South Africa.

Botha, heading a high-ranking delegation visiting Iran, said the Pretoria was willing to boost cooperation with Tehran on transfer of technology. Consumers of electricity in South Africa will total 2.5 million in the next five years, Botha said.

The Pretoria hopes to apply achievements of Iranian Ministry of Energy in the supply of electricity to villages and other places, he added.

Outlining Iran's record on energy industry, Zangeneh said achievements in the field have been very effective in ensuring welfare of Iranian citizens. Making an economical use of electricity and privatizing power distribution

companies are among the major plans included in the Second Five-Year Development Plan.

Oil Minister Meets With Botha

LD1103171795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] South African Energy Minister Roelof Frederik Botha and the Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i met today, and it was later announced that the two countries have agreed to form a joint committee to expand oil exchanges, trade, and industrial cooperation.

Topics discussed in the meeting included relations between the two countries, including the sale of crude oil to South Africa, cooperation for (?production of) oil and petrochemical products and South African partnership in projects in Iran's free trade zones.

Aviation, Visa Cooperation Discussed

LD1203182595 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 12 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Iran and South Africa voiced readiness for further cooperation in various fields, it was announced after a meeting here on Sunday [12 March] between visiting South African Minister of Energy Pik Botha and Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi.

Calling for upgrading of bilateral ties, the two sides said they were ready to open direct flights between Tehran and Pretoria, remove obstacles in issuing visas for each other's nationals and to cooperate in the banking sector.

Botha and Hashemi also discussed cooperation in the fields of trade, oil, mining, industry, technology and education.

Botha said South Africa's private sector could assume a role in meeting Iran's needs in different fields.

The setting up of a joint economic commission could pave the way for further Tehran-Pretoria cooperation, Hashemi replied.

Meshkini Criticizes Censorship of Amini Sermon

LD1103175095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1445 GMT 11 Mar 95

[Sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini-Qomi, speaker of the Assembly of Experts, in Qom on 10 March—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Another issue to which I should refer at the end of my remarks is that last Friday [3 March] our esteemed brother, His Eminence Ayatollah [Ebrahim Haj] Amini-Najafabadi, may God give him support, praised the government to a great extent. You all heard him. I was not there, but I

heard it from those who were there. He spoke in praise of the government and said some encouraging words. Fine, but he also mentioned a few words of advice to the government towards the end of his remarks. Unfortunately those end remarks were cut short, they were censored. Very well, that is not right, we do not think that was a correct thing to do. When we praise you, you broadcast it; but when we protest ... [pauses] We have two kinds of protest. One kind is that a person writes an article and makes a protest, but we know that this protest is motivated by enmity, hostility, and spite. Of course such protest should be investigated. But when a person like Ayatollah Amini—may God protect him, who is pious from head to toe and loves Islam, I have not seen anything but love of Islam from this great man, of course the only reason I mention this is because he has uttered those words, God be praised there are many like him in the Theological School—says something, gives a word of advice, it is not right to censor his remarks. Dear sisters and brothers, do you know what the censorship of that advice means? By censoring that word of advice they want to say: O gentlemen, Friday prayer imams, those higher or lower than them, you can praise the government as much as you like, it is your duty to do so; but if you want to exceed that and utter a word of criticism or advice, then we will omit your remarks. That is not a correct thing to do. What we tell the government is out of care. The government belongs to us, the country belongs to us, we care for the nation, we care for the government. I swear to God that we love the Majles deputies and support them. We completely support our esteemed government, our president, and our radio and television, which has changed one hundred percent from the way it was during the Taghut [during the rule of the Shah]. Islamic countries wish to have a similar organization... [pauses] If we say something and make a criticism, it should not be omitted. We hope that God help them succeed and that they do not repeat such mistakes in the future. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Sermon Addresses Export Bank Fraud

LD1003163795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0829 GMT 10 Mar 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran on 10 March—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

There is one issue which, had it had not happened in our society, judicial regulations would not have allowed me to explain. But, since a question has been raised throughout the community, which unfortunately was also broadcast from the podium of the Majles, and which friend and foe have perforce used and misused, it is necessary for me to give some explanation, although it is not permissible for anyone to divulge information on a case which is sub judice.

After the case has gone through its judicial course, gone to court, and the judge has declared the court in session, then everyone can be informed about the case. The papers can write, people can go [to court], people can discuss it everywhere. But before it goes to court, to publicize it would contravene regulations. However, I will give a brief summary of the incident and leave the rest for the judge.

I ask the honorable judge to clarify points which the public needs to know, after the court is in session. I also ask the honorable prosecutor and investigator to take care that political issues do not play a part in judicial matters. A matter we are very concerned about is that justice must be impartial; the judge must be impartial; no official should put pressure on the judiciary and the judge; and no one in the judiciary, at any level, should make the smallest decision influenced others. This should be observed.

Now I will give a very brief report on the incident. Between 5/1/1371 and 13/11/1371 [25 March 1992 to 2 Feb 1993], that is in 10 months and eight days two years ago, the holders of a number of accounts—recently that number has gone up to four; the main defendant is one person; the rest are accused of being accomplices—at branch number 207 of the Export Bank [Bank-e Saderat] in Tajrish, with the collaboration of a number of staff at the branch began withdrawing money from those accounts in rotation.

What does rotation mean? It means the bank clerk withdraws money from one account, even though there is no money in that account. The next day they withdraw money from another account and credit it to the first account. Then they withdraw from another account and credit it to that account. According to an informed source in the Majles the time between withdrawal and deposit was three to eight days, more or less. I do not know exactly. This, that is the total rotational withdrawal from those accounts in that branch of the bank two years ago reached 118 billion tumans.

On 13/11 [2 February] the inspector general of the Export Bank discovered the matter when inspecting the branch, put a stop to it, and attempted to ascertain the total debt and recover it gradually. It is perfectly natural and it is well that the matter was kept confidential, so that the debtors would not escape, and that he could recover the money from them. He started the proceedings. On the date when the rotational withdrawals stopped they owed 6,500 million tumans. From the date when the withdrawals stopped and the accounts were closed and they attempted to recover the debts, about 4,100 million tumans were recovered.

Meanwhile, on 24/8/1372 [15 November 1993]—I do not know why; it is up to the court to explain and I do not deem it necessary to explain here—for whatever reason, the inspector general of the Export Bank wrote a letter to the Majles and a copy was sent to us [in the judiciary].

The first question is this, Mr. bank inspector. If the matter is for the law, why did you write to the Majles? That is my question. The court must answer in due course. Anyway, the letter was sent to the Majles and a copy was sent to us. As soon as I saw the copy I stressed to the honorable prosecutor of Tehran that it should be looked into and the necessary legal action should be taken. I also followed up the matter on a regular basis, to see how far the case was progressing, what had been done, how much had been recovered.

I should point out here that the main defendant was a fugitive, he was abroad. To broadcast the matter entailed the risk that he would not return or could not be brought back. However, when the letter was sent to the Majles, it was a good thing for the Majles that the Article 90 Committee became involved. We asked the honorable prosecutor and the investigator to act and explain briefly to the Article 90 committee, while observing confidentiality. They got involved, they explained to the committee, and they described the progress of the case.

Thus far things had progressed normally and well, to safeguard the rights of the public and recover public funds.

Here a certain [Majles] deputy got on the podium—again I do not know why; God willing the reason will be raised in the court—and made an announcement from that podium. And then he mentioned the figure for the so-called debt; the figure at the time, which might have been the whole [amount] or perhaps less or more than the whole. The figure [for the amount] in rotation which was announced by the Tehran prosecutor entered the consciousness of the general public. Then the general public began to say that 118 billion tumans had been embezzled from public funds. Then anyone who could put two and two together asked: Does a branch of the Bank of Exports in a corner of Tehran have a capital of 118 billion tumans at its disposal to pay out for them [the accused] to pocket and then not realize that? That was the first question. Well, the reply is most clear. That figure was one [for the amount] in rotation during that period and not the drawn amount. At the time of the freezing of those accounts there was a debt of 6.5 billion [tumans]. Of that, as I said, 4.1 billion [tumans] have been recovered. Then, when [the story] was announced from the [Majles] podium—as you know—our enemies abroad blew it up. [They talked about] the financial and administrative situation in the Islamic system; the economic status of the state; Iran this, Iran that, Iran the other. They spoke against us as much as they could. And what for? All because an uninvestigated case was aired at a public podium before it had gone to court.

In any case, the gentleman, who is the principal accused, was somehow brought back and handed over to the court. All his assets were confiscated. A tower block in north Tehran was seized in the name of the bank. Another 1.4 billion tumans [of the debt] was made up by this seizure. That is, it [tower block] was put at the

disposal of the bank. In other words it [some of the remaining amount] was paid up. Then the party was arrested. Enquiries and discussions automatically began with the rest of the account holders in order to investigate the case. Those in the bank who needed to be arrested were arrested. Right now the principal accused and some of the bank employees are detained by the judiciary and the case is going through its final stages. My latest news for the remaining nearly 1 billion tumans is that several other properties—connected with those gentlemen, but in dispute regarding payment of municipal rates—have been appropriated by the bank. The legal interpretation is that the properties have been secured for the payment of the rest of the debt and no one can take them over.

In fact all the payments [by the bank] have been recovered. And now we are announcing that such a thing has happened and we add that the details must be investigated in open court. Well, some might ask that when someone has committed an offense and taken money and you have later recovered it from him what is the prosecution for? It is very clear! What has taken place is a group action. A repeated act by a number of people who have been able to do what they did through their complicity. One or two people would not have been able to carry that through by themselves. Because the issue can also have a penal aspect, it is certain that when the case becomes ready—very soon it will be taken to court. When I say soon, I mean that if, God willing, they [the relevant officials] manage they will go to court before the end of the year [Iranian year ending 20 March]. Otherwise the case must definitely be presented to the court at the beginning of next year. I tell you definitely and categorically that the court must be open for anyone who wishes to attend. And those officials concerned with the case should be most vigilant so that there is no political exploitation of the case. The judicial process must remain unsullied. So much for that case.

There is also another issue, which I would like to mention briefly as I have already referred to it once or twice before, which concerns the Fokker aircraft that was involved in a crash in Esfahan. The case has been properly investigated and is at a good point and we were thinking of transferring the case to an open court before the end of the year. In this regard, I do not want to mention that there was pressure, but there were extraordinary expectations by some people questioning the reason for the judicial power's involvement in this case. I have repeatedly mentioned that even when an ordinary incident takes place and a person is killed in a car crash then the case goes to court, it is investigated and it becomes clear whether the incident was intentional and unintentional or if compensation should be paid. In any case they clear the case. Now an incident has taken place resulting in the death of around 70 people and you say that the judicial power should sit and watch. Of course it cannot do that. [passage omitted saying that a judge's conscience cannot accept that; also repeating that the case will go to open court in the near future and that there was

confusion about which department should investigate the case which has been sorted out]

Last Wednesday the UN Human Rights Commission held a session in Geneva, with the same old predictable agenda and under the pressure of Western governments, passing a resolution or a report by Mr. Galindo Pohl, the [UN] special envoy, with 28 votes [in favor] out of a total of 53 votes [condemning human rights violations in Iran]. If we compare this report with the one issued a year ago we see that the countries that voted for the report and against Iran, accusing Iran of human rights violations, were mostly from Western and some European countries. Other countries either voted against it or abstained. Therefore the votes against have been increased by five or six. But about the text of the report, the same old issues have been repeated, but one or two extra points have been added—I do not know if they have been added intentionally or unintentionally. They used to say that executions carried out in Iran violate human rights. But now they have mentioned that executions carried out for example for indecent assault for which there is an Islamic punishment—they even mentioned a name in one case—is also a violation of human rights. We have repeatedly mentioned here that the punishment ordained by God's law cannot be changed and no-one can alter them.

We seriously call on the Islamic countries' officials and envoys who participated in the commission to further investigate this recent issue which is a new chapter in order to resolve the case radically. You are aware that the new issue is this, namely: Who says that a human rights devised by the West should be applied to the whole world? Who has said such a thing? Some nations have their own cultures, some nations have their own religions, you cannot describe as human rights violations the issues which concern their religions and culture. You cannot impose the human rights as you have translated and defined them. Some acts which are considered by many religions as prostitution, offense, and tyranny, and even most sociologists believe that they are against the law, you still say that they are violations of human rights. You say that they should be free and they should be allowed to do whatever they like.

This issue should be seriously investigated. Islamic human rights differ from the Declaration of Human Rights. Islam has its own rules and regulations. There are more than one billion and a few hundred million Muslims throughout the world and they consider the Koran as their foremost book and their greatest confidant. There are rules and regulations within the text of the Koran which no power can alter even slightly. Now you come and say that human rights says this and that. The punishment ordained by God's law and mentioned in the Koran cannot be ignored.

Human rights must be Islamic human rights. At this point I also wish to add that God willing from the beginning of the year 1374 [21 March 1995] the Islamic Republic of

Iran's human rights commission will start its work. All the preliminary requirements are ready for this and the main charter will be released early in the new year.

In our opinion the vote given [on human rights violations in Iran] has no credibility at all. What they have said is the repeat of their earlier statements and are not substantiated. Much longer time is needed in order to analyze this discussion. A report cannot be substantiated simply by quoting biased third-party organizations and counterrevolutionary sources.

I am surprised that the report is critical of women's status in Iran, the press [freedom] in Iran, and the treatment of some individuals and particularly the prisoners in Iran. The Europeans come here and inspect our prisons. They officially interview individuals both here and abroad. The Europeans then conclude that the situation in Iran is the best in the world. They praise the comfort enjoyed by the prisoners, their diet, the visiting hours, short breaks [to go home], and other special visiting concessions which are not given to prisoners anywhere else in the world. I am surprised that they then sit and write articles criticizing the plight of prisoners in Iran. At any rate in our opinion this verdict [of UN human rights commission] does not have much validity and credibility.

Following several earlier visits, U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Christopher toured the region again. This may not be his last visit either because he did not achieve much during this tour. During a week's tour he held various meetings with Arab heads of state, took some decisions, and discussed some issues. Their main objective was to break the deadlock in implementation of the sell-out.

We are certain, as they have realized too, that such talks will not resolve the main problem. The people's problem is different from the problem of the state. The Muslim nations are separate from those heads of state who are ruling in some Arab countries today. The people of Palestine are different from the person [Arafat] who claims to be the representative of the people of Palestine and has signed a shameful accord. The people living in south Lebanon, whose land is occupied, are not the same as those other Lebanese in the southern regions of the country who liaise with you. The main criteria of the task are the nation and the people. This deadlock, therefore, will never be broken.

We are saying for certain that as long as the occupied territories of Lebanon, Syria, and our Palestinian brothers are not returned to them, nothing can be achieved here. [shouts of approval from the congregation] [passage omitted condemning Serb aggression in Bosnia]

The current problem in Afghanistan has become particularly complicated. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced its stance. This stance remains the same. It has not changed at all. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly asked all the warring factions in

Afghanistan, those who hold power or resources, to abandon the war. Iran has frequently asked them to stop military action and fratricide. They have been asked not pound the ruins any more to cause more destruction. They should sit round and resolve the problem through talks, by implementing justice, and by giving every group what it justifiably deserves. They can move along this path gradually.

Now a new group has appeared [the Taleban]. One cannot easily believe that this group came from nowhere. Basically it is not possible anywhere or in any occasion that something appears automatically. This is unprecedented. There are usually reasons [for emergence of a new group], past records, factors and plans. There are some [unspecified elements] behind this. And there are some [unspecified]. There is no need for us to express our views or to reveal our information to expose their affiliation. However we are saying: Do not add to the ruins of this suffering country any more. Yes there is a new group, but let us regard this as yet another group added to the previous groups. Come sit down and resolve problems through talks. The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the Afghanistan issue remains creation of unity among all factions to resolve the problem through consensus and coordination. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

FBI Team Arrives To Investigate Murders

Government Launches Own Probe

BK1103114395 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu
11 Mar 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Investigations into the murder of diplomats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A team of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation has arrived in Karachi to investigate the murder of two U.S. diplomats. The U.S. Government has announced a reward of \$2 million for those providing information about the assassins. The Pakistani Government, too, has announced a reward of 2 million rupees for this purpose. John C. Monjo, the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, has said the United States reserves the right to arrest and bring to trial criminals involved in the murder of its citizens.

The scale on which the government has launched investigations into the killing of two U.S. diplomats should be considered satisfactory. The police have released portraits of the assassins with the help of eyewitnesses and have announced a reward of 2 million rupees—for the first time in Pakistan—for those providing full information about persons involved in any terrorist activities. Earlier, the government had not shown this kind of intensity and drive in launching investigations into the incidents of terrorism, in which even six to 10 people were killed at one time. Had the government agencies swung into action before in the same manner as they did

after the killing of the U.S. diplomats, the murder of the U.S. diplomats would not have taken place.

As for the claims of the U.S. ambassador that his government has the right to arrest and prosecute suspects involved in the murder of its citizens, nobody in Pakistan will dare challenge this right. This is evident from the fact that the Pakistani Government itself has been arresting and handing over its own citizens to the United States. In a way it would be good if the assassins of the diplomats were arrested with the help of the U.S. Government.

On the orders of the inspector general of police, Sindh, the subinspector of police—earlier suspended from duty for not chasing the taxi in which the terrorists escaped—has been arrested. It has been stated that the investigating teams, which are being assisted by the U.S. experts, have also taken into custody about 50 persons and are interrogating them. We hope a breakthrough will be achieved in these investigations and the culprits arrested, leading to the elimination of the incidents of terrorism in this country.

Clinton Criticized

BK1103101195 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 11 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistani nation insulted"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There seems no end to the humiliation handed out to our nation from Washington. The latest in the series is the fast dispatch of a large contingent of detectives, forensic experts and ID kit makers subsequent to the murder of two Americans in Karachi. The normal procedure between two sovereign-states in such a situation is for the host country to conduct its own probe and seek the assistance of the other government as a last resort. As far as we know, no such request was made by Islamabad while its own investigation is not yet complete. By this heavy-handed and high-pressure approach, the US has condemned this nation, its institutions, and its integrity in one go. Washington appears to believe that we are a lesser breed, a no competence to probe crime, no knowledge of the due process of law and no idea what the concept of justice means. This, without doubt, [is] an outrageous insult to the national pride. Presumably, Mr Clinton could have achieved the same results by acting more discreetly so as not to hurt the self-respect and sensibilities of Pakistani nation but he intentionally acted hastily and quite likely wanted to be seen acting hastily to improve his domestic rating. And if in the process, he has to insult another nation who cares? To rub salt in the wound, Mr Monjo chipped in with the statement that the accused, if apprehended, may be tried in US. This is a clear example of double standards. No US citizen who commits crime against Pakistani or other foreign nationals is deported to stand trial in the victim's country. Clearly Mr Monjo believes that in Pakistan American writ prevails and these territories are in fact though not in name, the colonial possessions of Washington.

Mr Clinton acted the way he did to improve his and his country's image, but what compelled Islamabad to show such abject obedience, hurting the dignity of their nation and defying the popular sentiment? Are they suffering from moral numbness of type that they will go to any length of grovelling to please the lords of Washington. Are they more important than the wishes of their own electorate? By allowing the probe team from abroad the present regime has given a vote of no confidence in the institution of the nation. Just imagine if a similar incident had happened in some self-respecting nation like Iran, they would not dream of allowing Americans on their soil, but mete out justice according to the laws of the land. Frankly speaking the much-praised system of American justice does not inspire confidence in the rest of the world. Also a country where President kill civilians of other nations to improve their ratings at home, prompt violence against their own citizens. Not long ago Clinton ordered the bombing of Iraq on a spurious pretext to raise his political stock. We find the presence of Washington's probe team on our soil obnoxious.

Editorial Welcomes FBI

BK1303111295 Karachi HAIDER in Urdu 12 Mar 95 p 4

[Editorial: "FBI investigation into terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has sent an FBI team to Pakistan to investigate the killing of two U.S. Consulate officials in Karachi. At the same time, the U.S. Government has also announced a huge reward of \$2 million to anyone providing information leading to the arrest or identification of the assassins. On the other hand, the Government of Pakistan, too, has offered to extend all possible cooperation to the FBI team in tracking down and apprehending the terrorists. The FBI team will cooperate fully with the Karachi Administration and try to track down the terrorists who shot and killed the two U.S. officials.

There is no doubt that the day-to-day murder and plunder in Karachi has destroyed peace in the country, causing sorrow and anguish among Pakistanis. The leaders of some political parties may be right when they charge that the lives of only two U.S. citizens were so dear that their murder has created a furor in the United States, that a huge sum of money has been offered as reward for the capture of the assassins, and the task of probing the murder has been assigned to a sensitive U.S. agency; but in Karachi, where terrorism has raised its ugly head and where thousands of people have become/are becoming victims of terrorism, the Government of Pakistan has not succeeded in its efforts to track down the terrorists nor has it been able to ascertain whether Indian subversive agents or sectarian organizations are involved in such terrorist activities. We appreciate the feelings expressed by Pakistani politicians, religious scholars, and the general public because as patriotic people they cannot but demonstrate such emotions in the wake of the killing of Pakistani citizens, but they should realize that

the FBI has enormous resources at its disposal to investigate the murder. They are equipped with modern and sophisticated devices and are fully aware of the factors and causes of terrorism in Karachi. Under these circumstances, we understand that the Government of Pakistan has taken the right step in accepting the proposal to allow the FBI to conduct the inquiry. If the FBI succeeds in apprehending the subversives involved in the murder of two U.S. citizens with the help of Pakistani officials and of anyone providing information to claim the reward, then it will help us in tracking down other subversive elements, too. Another benefit of the FBI investigation will be that the Pakistani investigating agencies will get the opportunity to learn modern methods of investigation. Therefore, we think that the Government of Pakistan has accepted President Clinton's proposal after giving it careful thought. We would, therefore, request politicians and others to wait for the report of the FBI investigation before making any accusations. This is, perhaps, the first time in Pakistan's history that a U.S. President has taken strong notice of the acts of terrorism perpetrated against U.S. citizens, specifically in Pakistan.

Press on Suspect Groups in Karachi Murder Case

'Evolving Pattern' Noted

BK1103100095 Karachi DAWN in English 10 Mar 95
p 11

[Editorial: "Sad, but part of an evolving pattern"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Who could be behind the killing of the two Americans in Karachi on Wednesday [8 March] morning? Take your pick from the following list. The Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan, one of whose leading activists was gunned down in Lahore on Tuesday, and which regularly voices its grouse against the machinations of the Great Satan? Sunni militants still smarting over the acquittal of the two persons accused in the recent blasphemy case? The Haqiqi faction of the MQM [Mujahir Qaumi Movement] which also mouths anti-American slogans? The collaborators of the alleged terrorist, Ramzi Yusuf, who was recently extradited, and swiftly at that, by Pakistani authorities to the US? Or General Babar's ubiquitous foreign hand which is out to sow terror in the country, give the country a bad name and perhaps sabotage the Prime Minister's forthcoming trip to the United States? Countries like Algeria and Egypt which are waging war against their own brand of militants have the comfort of certainty on their side. When a violent act takes place on their soil there is in most cases no mystery about the source of the trouble. It is a measure of the pass in which Pakistan finds itself that the terrorism which is beginning to stalk its cities goes about with an uncertain identity. Vague guesses, yes; but nothing more distinct beyond that.

Connect the foregoing with another circumstance and the picture becomes yet more chilling. According to some newspaper reports, at about the time the killers of

the two Americans were perpetrating their deadly deed there was a police vehicle not far from the scene of the crime. When informed of what had happened, the policemen in it refused even to make a show of giving chase to the yellow cab in which the killers were fleeing. In Lahore the same day, Shia activists protesting against the murder of Dr Muhammad Ali Naqvi set fire to a bus of the Punjab Constabulary even as the guardians of public order watched helplessly from a distance. And at Thokar Niaz Beg, a Lahore suburb and a reputed Shia stronghold, Shia activists told policemen to leave the checkpoint they were manning. After the policemen obligingly did as they were told, the road leading to Lahore was blocked for hours. Call this routine police inefficiency or give it the more honorific title of a decline in state authority—in either case the portents are alarming.

What would also not be lost on most Pakistanis is that when the killing of the Americans took place, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was away from the country on one of her interminable foreign visits. Clearly, government leaders are not expected to be tethered to a rope at home all the time. Paying visits to foreign lands is part of their duty. But in the case of our present Prime Minister the question can still be asked whether she really needs to spend so much time abroad when the country needs evidence of a firm hand on the tiller at home? The purpose of her recent foreign trips has been to win international good-will and drum up foreign investment. She surely realises that an event such as the attack on the Americans takes care of fifty spectacular memoranda of understanding that she or her advisers may sign with potential foreign investors.

What has happened is a sad event which cannot be sufficiently condemned. That foreigners were targeted on this occasion gives it a new dimension but otherwise it fits into the escalation of violence which we have been seeing in the country recently. That this is a challenge for the country goes without saying. But more specifically it is a challenge for the authorities of the state. Before anything else—foreign trips, energy deals, memoranda of understanding—they must restore peace in the country. If they are seen to be doing something and if their concern is evident, people at large will still be able to take a great deal of trouble in their stride. It is official pomp and circumstance and apathy juxtaposed with the spiralling violence which sharpens the edge of popular despair.

Meanwhile, please, can we have an end, even if a temporary one, to empty speechifying and orating? Of stern vows to curb sectarianism and ethnicity we have heard enough. Let the big ones of the government realise the drift of events and get down to doing something—provided they can spare time from their other engagements.

Murders Islamist 'Reprisal'

BR0903154795 Paris LES ECHOS in French 9 Mar 95
p 44

[FBIS Translated Text] The assassination of two U.S. diplomats in Karachi yesterday—a third was wounded—

has all the trademarks of a reprisal operation. In fact it came exactly one month after the extradition from Pakistan to the United States of a certain Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf, a 27-year-old Iraqi suspected of being one of the people actually involved in the 26 July 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, in which six people died and 1000 were injured. Coincidence or not, the attack should not have come as a great surprise to the State Department, which on 11 February warned its diplomats and nationals about "reprisals by terrorist organizations." If anything good is to come of this unfortunate occurrence, the death of two diplomats should open the eyes of U.S. leaders to the existence of a nebulous international network of terrorist Islamists and make them more circumspect regarding radical Islamic movements which were once looked upon benevolently. The fact that these events happened in Pakistan would appear to raise the question of the dangers involved in manipulating these groups. It is hard not to conclude that America is, maybe even unfairly, reaping what it sowed during the war in Afghanistan against the Soviet occupier. During the 1980's, Washington undiscerningly—and with the complicity of the Pakistani Army and secret services—supported the most reactionary Islamic resistance movements in the name of the old principle "the end justifies the means." These are the same "Afghans" who, returning home bathed in glory, often enter into violent opposition against those regimes which are sympathetic to the West and the United States.

India Alleged Behind Deaths

BK1103152995 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu
11 Mar 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The murder of the U.S. diplomats—moment of reflection for the United States itself"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Indian agents have been orchestrating incidents of murder and plunder in Karachi for a long time now, which has sent a wave of alarm throughout the nation. So far, the Indian agents have been having bloody carnivals only with the Pakistanis, but by murdering officers of the U.S. Consulate, they have created a moment of reflection for the U.S. authorities themselves. Taking serious note of the criminal activities after the shooting to death of the two U.S. Consulate officers by subversive elements, a U.S. Embassy spokesman offered to extend full cooperation to the government in tracking down and meting out exemplary punishment to the culprits.

It is heartening that the United States has now become aware of Indian designs in spite of the fact that the U.S. spokesman has said he was not sure why his colleagues were the targets of terrorism and what motives were behind that criminal act. This is a cautious attitude that any diplomat should adopt, but the U.S. authorities understand full well that India will never tolerate the promotion and consolidation of relations between the

United States and Pakistan. The glaring proof of this is that the U.S. officers were murdered at a time when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is scheduled to pay an official visit to the United States, during which the Kashmir issue, Indian designs, India's nuclear program, and other sensitive issues are likely to be discussed. Important decisions are also expected to be made during this visit. That is why India has given a kind of warning to the United States by killing two U.S. officers. In the past, India has faced no threat from any Pakistani Government because the workings of those governments had been in conformity with the designs of the Indian lobby. India felt the greatest threat when martyr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto established democracy in Pakistan and gave the country the gift of a nuclear plant. After the martyrdom of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto—soon after assuming power—expressed her determination to continue and safeguard the country's nuclear program. This proved a danger signal for India.

India is attempting to sabotage Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States. It is no secret that, being a superpower, the United States never tried to keep India from violating human rights. Instead, Washington has been patronizing New Delhi all along, which has resulted in the murder of two U.S. diplomats, and that, too, on Pakistani soil.

If the U.S. people happen to ponder, they will realize that the attack in Karachi was not on the two U.S. diplomats alone but on the entire U.S. nation. Now the U.S. people must think about how they will take revenge on India for the killing of their two officers in Karachi.

MQM(H) Chief Denies Group's Involvement

BK1103094295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Mar 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore (PPI)—MQM [Mujahid Qaumi Movement] (Haqiqi) chief Afaq Ahmad has denied his group is involved in the killing of two US officials and termed the Karachi violence as an international conspiracy to separate Karachi violence as an international conspiracy to separate Karachi from Pakistan to cripple it economically. [sentence as published]

Addressing a press conference here Friday, he expressed concern over the aggravating law and order situation in Karachi. He said the Karachi violence was not the outcome of sectarianism because no Muslim could dare to attack a mosque or imambargah.

He said agents of some foreign agencies had infiltrated the city and were indulging in criminal activities with the support of local inhabitants.

He called for an early solution to the Karachi problem and suggested that both government and opposition sit together and evolve a common strategy to cope with the miscreants.

He said the killing of two US officials could be an international conspiracy to malign Pakistan internationally so as to provide pretext to the United Nations to deploy its forces for keeping peace in Karachi.

Replying to a question, Afaq Ahmad said he would not support deployment of the army again in Karachi to control the situation as it could not be done without the consensus of the political parties in Karachi. He said the government should take the Karachi issue seriously and take all the political and religio-political parties into confidence to bring to back persons responsible for the violence.

He regretted the apathy of the government in not taking the Karachi issue on priority agenda, saying if it did not take immediate remedial measures the situation would not be favourable for the country which was inching towards disintegrating.

He claimed the government had planned to lease out land at Manora owned by Manora Trust to Oman at the rate of Rs. 40 per square yard for the next 100 years. The matter was still in doldrums as one of the directors of board of trustee had objected to the deal.

To a question he said if the government claims that foreign hands are involved in the Karachi violence, why does it not expose the miscreants.

The MQM (Haqiqi) chief alleged that Altaf Hussain, chief of his own MQM faction was indirectly involved in patronising terrorist activities in Karachi. He said Altaf had become a tool in the hands of foreign agencies and his party workers were providing them every possible assistance to create disturbances in Karachi.

MQM Chief Offers To Cooperate With U.S.

BK1103094995 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Mar 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LONDON, March 10—In a letter addressed to the US Secretary of State, Mr Warren Christopher, the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leader, M Altaf Hussein, has extended his party's full cooperation in the investigation of the killing of the US embassy employees.

"I have asked my remaining political leadership," he said, "to fully assist the visiting FBI team in order to help apprehend the real culprits."

The letter, copies of which have been sent to the US ambassador in Islamabad, the US embassy in London and the US attorney-general, alleged that the MQM had been the prime target of "this kind of brutalities in Karachi and other major cities of Sindh since June 1992." The tragedies, it states, emphasised the alarming lack of attention which the federal government and that of Sindh have given to the constantly deteriorating law and order situation in Karachi.

The letter claims that thousands of men, women and children belonging to the MQM have been killed as a result of "terrorism", but the government has failed to pay the slightest heed to calls for help and assistance from the MQM.

Mr Altaf has also offered any legal assistance the Federal Bureau of Investigation team may require from Pakistan.

Government To Crush 'Terrorists' 'Ruthlessly'

BK1103140595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the government has decided to crush the terrorists ruthlessly in order to protect the lives and property of innocent citizens of Karachi. She was talking to newsmen after presiding over a high-level meeting on law and order in Karachi today. Giving her views on Karachi situation, the prime minister said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] The situation in Karachi is very complicated. It did not happen overnight. It has taken a very long time to develop. On the one hand, there is the foreign hand. We have caught people who were trained overseas and we have taken certain actions in that regard. Secondly, because the government signed an extradition treaty with Egypt to turn over any militant, the militant organizations have decided to try and destabilize the situation. Thirdly, we have had the largest drug haul in the history of Pakistan in the northern areas in January of this year; and because our battle against narcotics is continuing, the narcotics dealers have decided to finance the sectarian groups and hire guns to create fear and harassment, to put off pressure against them. We are trying to expedite extradition. This too has had its repercussions. In the past, a blind eye was turned to many issues of global importance and importance to Pakistan's security. Since we are not turning a blind eye and we are in conflict with such forces of narcotics or sectarianism, militancy, arms smuggling, they have decided to try and destabilize the government; but we feel that the battle we are fighting is the battle for Pakistan's stability, the region's stability, and, indeed, global stability. [end recording]

Earlier, briefing the newsmen about the high-level meeting on law and order, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal, said the government has decided to properly equip the police and rangers in Karachi in order to deal with the terrorists with an iron hand. He said the meeting was of the view that all the political parties recognized the fact that the recent incidents taking place in Karachi were neither political nor religious or sectarian, although the terrorists were acting under the cover of politics or sectarianism. He further informed that the meeting had decided that all the suspected terrorists would be arrested. Some important clues about the terrorists have been found but they were not being

disclosed due to security reasons, he added. He further said that the government is taking all necessary measures to control the situation and prime minister's regular visits to Karachi were also part of these efforts. He said that the meeting decided that arms licenses would be issued for the protection of mosques and all illegal arms and ammunition would be recovered. Federal secretary for information and broadcasting, Mr. Hussain Haqqani, was also present during the briefing.

Arrests 1,000 in 'Crackdown'

BK1303041695 Islamabad THE NATION in English
13 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—In the crackdown on terrorists and criminals, the law-enforcement agencies on Sunday [12 March] arrested about one thousand persons and seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from them.

In the operation, launched jointly by police and Rangers a former Deputy Commissioner has also been detained for questioning while a Sub-Divisional Magistrate has been suspended.

The crackdown on terrorists and criminals has been started on the directive of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, issued during high-level meeting on law and order situation at the State Guest House here on Saturday. The Prime Minister had warned that those supporting the criminals would not be spared.

The law-enforcement agencies cordoned off certain localities of the city and conducted a thorough search besides arresting criminals. The operation started Saturday night and continued till Sunday morning.

The army recovered during the operation included nine Kalashnikovs, 78 pistols, 19 revolvers, three mousers, five rifles five carbines and hundreds of live rounds. Eight stolen cars, one land cruiser jeep, four taxis and a dozen motorcycles were recovered from the arrested persons.

Former deputy Commissioner of District Central, Raeesuddin Piracha was also detained. Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jamshed Quarters, Danish Saeed was suspended, police and other agencies are interrogating Piracha.

When contacted, the newly-appointed Home Secretary, Commissioner of Karachi and DIG [Deputy Inspector General], Karachi were not was available to give details.

According to police, those arrested include alleged terrorist Faheem Commando who was wanted to police in a number of terrorism cases including killing of a sub-inspector, two policemen and others. His arrest was made from a psychiatrist's hospital in Nazhabad where he was admitted in the fake name of Abdul Latif. Police said that the crackdown on terrorists and criminals would continue.

Those arrested belonged to both the factions of Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Sunni Tehreek, Tehreek-i-Jafaria and other organisations.

AF adds: The crackdown started soon after Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto warned that authorities would be 'ruthless' in action to end the bloodshed.

Officials said here Sunday police had carried out raids throughout the previous night and that they were continuing to round up suspects.

Police be refused is comment on what charges have been pressed against the detainees, saying some would be released after questioning.

Benzir Bhutto ruled out invoking article 245 of the country's constitution, which would bring back the army with greater powers of arrest and prosecution. The government is, for the moment, relying on police and para-military troops to curb growing lawlessness. The army was pulled out of Karachi in November last year.

Officials acknowledge that violence has escalated since the army withdrew but say civilian authorities will cope with the situation.

Not To Spare 'Terrorists'

BK1303083095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
13 Mar 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—The government on Sunday [12 March] made it clear that it will not spare terrorists and succumb to any pressure.

"We will go to the last limits against terrorists even at the stake of our government and we will not succumb to their pressures. They will be given no concessions whatsoever," Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar told reporters in his chambers Sunday evening.

The Federal Cabinet may take up this issue in its fortnightly meeting. The agenda includes other key points as well.

Sources say the government decided at a meeting in Karachi chaired by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that crackdown against terrorists must be further intensified and that terrorists be exposed. The decision came after Moin Qureshi and Nawaz Sharif spoke for Altaf Hussain and the MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement] and particularly after Sharif's meeting with Army Chief Gen Waheed.

But Babar did not give any significance to that meeting and delinked Sharif's softened stance towards the MQM with the lengthy meeting at GHQ [General Headquarters]. "Altaf could have been pardoned earlier when the army was still conducting Operation Clean-up," Babar said.

According to him, there is no effective role of the MQM in the province at least until it brings to an end terrorist activities. This impression was further verified when

Babar in categorical terms ruled out talks with the MQM chief as long as he does not prove that he is not guilty.

The interior minister said the government and the opposition had different priorities and "we don't agree to what they say or do." He said that if Altaf was given amnesty, others might demand that defaulters of crores of rupees should also be pardoned. "We will not do so and go by the laws without any compromise" Babar said.

The interior minister dubbed as baseless reports about change in the top Sindh administration or Governor's Rule in the province. These two subjects, he said, had not even been discussed at the Karachi meeting.

He reiterated the government's decision that army would not be engaged in Sindh and the civil administration would face all challenges with the cooperation of elected representatives.

He deplored the killing of seven people in an armed clash between MQM Haqiqi and Altaf and said Rangers and police had been sent to the troubled area. He said authorities in Sindh rounded up about 500 suspects Saturday night, including former senior leaders and workers of religious groups.

Bhutto Assailed for Handling of 'Crisis'

BK1303073595 Islamabad THE NATION in English
13 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "'Ruthless' action in Karachi?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto has squarely blamed the drug mafia for being being the sectarian and ethnic strife in Karachi in a bid to destabilise her government in retaliation for the crackdown she claims her government is engaged in against them. This new element may be added to the growing list of sources of Karachi's troubles according to various government spokesmen and the PM herself, amongst which are included foreign agents. It is quite another matter of course that the government has not so far made a single shred of evidence available to the public against which the number of explanations of the government could be checked, on the grounds of protecting ongoing investigations. The latest round of killings in the metropolis, including the murder of two American diplomats, has finally galvanised the PM into promising ruthless action against the saboteurs of her continued rule. Of course it should be conceded that this threat is different from the one regularly trotted out by government spokesmen that terrorists will be dealt with with an iron hand. This conclusion is based on the perception that the murder of the two American diplomats and the generalised mayhem in Karachi is deeply embarrassing to the PM on the eve of her visit to the US. As far as the PM's claim that the current escalation in violence in Karachi, which has claimed about 300 lives already this year, is directly connected to the biggest drug haul ever in an operation against drug dealers in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] tribal area in

January, the PM should also have recalled that that operation was soon after rolled back, a compromise was struck with the drug mafia under pressure from local religious and political leaders, and nothing further has been heard of the antinarcotics drive since. Whether the drugs traffickers are back in business as usual since is not known, but the trailing off of the anti- traffickers offensive can lead to the perfectly logical surmise that they have more than made up for the temporary and partial interruption in their activities. So as an explanation for Karachi's woes, the PM's thesis leaves much to be desired. She is on firmer ground when she points out that Karachi's woes are neither recent nor entirely of her government's making. There may also be some truth in her assertion that part of the problem is connected to the 'left behind' foreign warriors of the Afghan jihad. However, this could perhaps only account for part of the problem, while the rest of Karachi's troubles remain to be credibly explained, let alone tackled by the government. The point is that irrespective of whether the 'hand' behind Karachi's killings is local or foreign, if the PM thinks that the present law enforcement machinery is equal to the task of 'ruthlessly' crushing extremism and terrorism, she is deluding no one but herself. In fact, on the very day the PM spoke of firm action, the terrorist replied with a rocket attack on Pir Pagaro's house on a main road in one of the posh residential areas of the city. That brought into question the PM's perception, which she has by now repeated ad nauseam in various fora at home and abroad, that 'only' certain parts of the city are experiencing terrorism while the rest of the city is seeing investment, implying peace and normality.

The final criticism of the PM's approach to Karachi's crisis is her failure to even mention what her Secretary Information alluded to in a talk with newsmen the distinction between the political problems of Karachi and terrorism. The PM's thrust banks on 'ruthless' action by a creaking, groaning, inefficient and yes, frightened law enforcement machinery, i.e. purely administrative measures. While these are essential and need a beefed up or rather totally revamped law enforcement structure and organisation, it is the political alienation and lack of representation of Karachi's citizens in the affairs of the city which should also be the focus of the government's efforts. If the reported intent of the government to finally hold the long overdue local bodies elections in Karachi is true, it can only be welcomed. It may not be the solution of all of Karachi's complex and inter-twined problems, but it will bring back into effective play the representatives of the people and allow them, with support from their constituents, to help the government tackle the hard-core terrorists. Without trying to sound pessimistic though, it may well be that even this little may be too little too late. Too much water, coloured with innocent blood, has flown down the Indus since.

Bhutto on Steps To Protect U.S., Other Envoys

BK1103145395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A high-level meeting reviewed the law and order situation in Karachi today. The

meeting presided over by the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, decided to take stern measures to fight against terrorism and apprehend those involved in it.

Briefing newsmen about the meeting, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, said the places where terrorists operate and those where they seek shelter would be thoroughly searched. The minister said certain clues have been found about the identity of terrorists, which cannot be disclosed at the moment for the sake of investigation process which is under way. Replying to a question, he said in general there is no sectarian problem in the city. This is foreign-inspired terrorism and the terrorists take some guise and cover in one form or the other—sometime in ethnic cover and sometime in sectarian cover. Their sole aim is to harass and frighten the people and create an impression that Karachi is an unprotected city.

The information minister said all political forces in the country have been recognizing the fact that there is a difference between political problems and terrorist act. He said those who are violating human rights in occupied Kashmir are responsible for terrorism in the country in order to divert the world attention from their crimes in occupied Kashmir. He said all facilities will be provided to police and rangers to meet the situation.

Replying to another question about seeking the help of American agencies like FBI to probe the killings of Americans, he said that all international networks available to our police are being utilized. However, lead role has to be played by our own police. The minister said the meeting stressed the need for greater liaison between citizens and the police to combat terrorist activities. He said licenses will be issued to muhallah [local area] committees for the protection of mosques. However, no illegal or unlicensed arms will be allowed.

The prime minister has expressed her government's firm determination to deal with the terrorists ruthlessly. Talking to newsmen after presiding over a high-level meeting about the Karachi situation this afternoon, she said the government cannot tolerate the killings of innocent people.

The prime minister described the killings of two Americans in Karachi as an act of terrorism. She said necessary measures have been taken to protect not only the American diplomats but also other diplomats. Special teams have been constituted to probe the incident of the firing on the American Consulate van.

Replying to a question, she said the problems of Karachi city are very complex and measures were being taken to solve them. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said we have taken drastic steps against drug trafficking. She said the drug mafia may be involved in these acts of terrorism. The prime minister said no proper attention was paid during the past to various matters of global interest like drug trafficking, but we cannot turn a blind eye on them.

Improved Security Needed

BK1003035495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
10 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Who should tackle this problem?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The situation in Karachi has deteriorated to such an extent that even the diplomats are not safe. The recent killing of two US Consulate staffers in broad day light is indeed a sad reflection on the security of life in the most populous city of our country. We have been urging the state authorities to look into the affairs of Karachi with seriousness that the magnitude of this problem requires. Whereas one could explain the brutal attacks on mosques and other places of worship in the light of the sectarian cleavages that are dividing our polity and the passions of hatred that are being exhibited without any restraint, how could one explain the killing of foreigners?

Apart from the regrettable explanation that the law and order situation has deteriorated to such an extent that stating institutions have become totally helpless in curbing these unfortunate incidents, there is another dimension that is becoming increasingly painful. In recent years Pakistan has become a centre of intrigues by many foreign agencies. Drug mafia and Kalashnikov culture has literally consumed all elements of sanity and civilised behaviour in the country and the terrorists are roaming around without any fear of apprehension. Such a state of affairs which challenges the existence of state institutions with success and without any restraint, leads to further cleavages in our social solidarity. With the result that some areas of our country have become safe havens for these who have absolutely no love for our national integrity. We have become targets of a well planned conspiracy and every conceivable crime against our people, our guests, and our institutions is being committed.

The killing of two Americans should be condemned as harshly as possible but mere condolence messages and strong statements are not sufficient. The government must ensure that not only the diplomats are safe in our cities, but our own people are not ambushed in their own streets by terrorists. The governments are supposed to look after the interests of their own people and the pre-requisite for any such resolve is that the lives and properties of the citizens are safe. If we fail in providing the basis on which societies are formed, the questions of progress and development become nothing more than cruel jokes.

The government should have awakened to the situation in Karachi earlier and should have anticipated that if effective measures are not adopted to stop this shameful drama, such situations as killing of foreigners could also take place. It is a well-known fact that Americans place a very high value on the lives of their citizens and can go to any length to punish the culprits. The implications of this incident are also not difficult to envisage. According

to a report the FBI team is on its way to Karachi to investigate the matter. The Prime Minister, in her message to the US President, has also stated that "This has reinforced our determination to work with you and others in the international community to combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism."

Terrorism at all levels and in every region deserves to be eliminated and condemned but the situation in Karachi is our problem and while we can seek help in better methodology and skill from those who have effectively overcome this problem, we will have to be very careful in handling the affairs of Karachi especially when there is evidence that foreign hands are involved in creating the law and order situation. The parameters of such a co-operation should be clearly spelled out so that our sovereignty is neither compromised nor targeted. We have already become a laughing stock for the rest of the world in not understanding the delicate difference between international co-operation and foreign dictation.

What is happening in Karachi is symptomatic of a deep crisis prevailing in that city which needs to be addressed and we cannot expect any foreign agency to be as considerate of our social, economic and political problems as our institutions provided they demonstrated a will to tackle this multidimensional issue.

Security Situation Deplored

BK1003080895 Islamabad THE NATION in English
10 Mar 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Fighting our terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While the killing of two US Consulate employees in Karachi has evoked widespread indignation from Washington to Islamabad, and it seems as if the entire state apparatus in Pakistan has been jolted into action, the track record of our intelligence agencies in tracing culprits involved in acts of terrorism has been so outrageously poor that even vows of decisive action by the President and the Prime Minister do not inspire much confidence. And it would be a matter of shame if "experts" were to be flown from Washington to investigate the crime. What is wrong with our security establishment is anybody's guess, but the fact remains that scores of known killings of prominent public figures—beginning with Liaquat Ali Khan—have never been detected, apart from recurring incidents of gunning down ordinary folks and attacking private property. Whether it is sheer incompetence or lack of political will to confront the prophets of terror, the government's credibility to meet the challenge of violence has slumped to an all-time low, raising serious doubts about its ability to salvage a modicum of law and order in the country. Terrorism as an instrument of power is not a phenomenon peculiar to Pakistan. It has manifested itself, in one form or the other, in different parts of the world, including countries which style themselves as "open, democratic and highly civilised societies". It is primarily the responsibility of the government in Islamabad to set

its own house in order and undertake on priority basis a cleansing of the Augean stables of inaction, mismanagement and inefficiency, to be seen as making an earnest endeavour to combat violence.

The motives or the identity of the killers of the two Americans is not yet known, and given the countless causes for which trigger-happy desperados are up in arms in Karachi, it may be a little too early to attribute the crime to a particular school of thought, but the possibility of an international dimension cannot be ruled out. Some observers have, however, expressed the apprehension that it would reinforce the view abroad that Pakistan is not only a haven for "hard-core Muslim extremist groups", but is also unable to reimpose order. It is, therefore, being suggested that the incident has cast a long shadow over Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's forthcoming visit to the US. The Benazir government, it is said, is seen as "well-intentioned but weak-kneed, irresolute, and afraid of moving firmly against sectarian violence for fear of a backlash". The message is unmistakably clear. So long as appeasement and indifference are seen as the dominant features of the government's policy, Benazir Bhutto, pious intentions apart, will not be able to sell herself in Washington as the West's only option to neutralise the forces of extremism in Pakistan. The delicate balancing act that her government has been trying to perform will not take her too far in pursuit of efficacious governance, and sooner or later she will have to opt for an all-out war against the oracles of violence in the country.

TJP Blames U.S. 'Stooges' for 'Chaos'

BK1303050095 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 95
p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, March 11—Syed Pida Hussain Shah Kazmi, additional secretary general, Tehreek-i-Jaffaria Pakistan [TJP], Sindh Zone, said on Saturday [11 March] that the United States and its stooges are involved in the present lawlessness and chaos in the city.

Speaking at a Press conference at Hussaini Masjid, Hussainabad in Malir, he said the killing of hundreds of innocent people in the city did not affect the rulers, but the murder of two US Consulate staffers had jolted the entire government.

He said: "The brutal killing of poor have gone unnoticed. But, the government has announced reward money for the provision of information about the killers of two US nationals."

Mr Kazmi said: "There is no government in the province. People are being butchered on roads, in mosques and imambargahs. No one is secure even in his house."

He said that during the holy month of Ramazan people engaged in worship (airekaf) were gunned down in a mosque, and over 20 people were made target of murder squads in two imambargahs.

Mr Kazmi said that continuing attacks on imambargahs and mosques in the presence of police had vanished rule of the law.

He demanded of the government to hold a high-level inquiry into the incidents and arrest the terrorists launching attacks on places of worship.

Editorial Condemns Killing of Two Diplomats

BK1003051195 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 10 Mar 95 p 6

[Editorial: "An act of terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Unidentified masked motorcyclists opened automatic weapon fire in Karachi on a US Consulate-General van carrying three American staffers, killing a communications technician on the spot and critically injuring a consulate secretary who later expired at hospital. The doctors are trying to save the life of the third victim. Security at the Consulate-General and elsewhere in the city has been beefed up and special teams have been constituted by the law-enforcement agencies to track down the killers. Expressing their shock and grief, President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have condemned the brutal act and expressed their deep sorrow over the tragedy. In a letter to US President Bill Clinton, The Prime Minister has assured him that "every effort will be made to apprehend the perpetrators of this act of terrorism."

The cold-blooded murder of the two diplomats has imparted an alarming new dimension to the unending cycle of violence in Karachi which has so far had primarily an ethnic or sectarian complexion. Mutually hostile groups, driven by political, factional or sectarian hatreds, have been locked in a no-holds-barred combat. The spiralling violence has for all practical purposes crippled life in the metropolis. Unidentified snipers have been raining death on innocent citizens. The toll for the past two weeks alone stands at 115 dead and 98 injured. The spillover in Punjab and elsewhere in the country in the form of armed attacks on places of worship has been no less dismaying. But the murder of the two diplomats is a worrying new development indicating involvement of foreign agents. The timing of the attack bears a special significance, when viewed in the context of the forthcoming visit to Pakistan of the American First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton as also the scheduled visit by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Washington next month. The attack could be an attempt by certain hostile foreign powers to sour Pak-US relations which have grown quite cordial following conclusion of agreements for massive US investment in the energy sector in Pakistan. Whatever the motivation behind the terrorist attack, the Government has moved promptly and constituted special investigating teams to bring to book the perpetrators of the crime. Taking an overall view, the tragic episode indicates a further deterioration in the law and order situation in Karachi. The Sindh administration should realise the gravity of the situation and

immediately initiative measures to arrest the slide into total chaos. There is an urgent need to revamp the entire law and order apparatus in the city. As the events of the past months have shown, the existing law and order machinery has totally failed to cope with the situation in Karachi. If need be, en bloc transfer and replacement of the existing staff should be considered. Among other things, better coordination should be established among various intelligence-gathering agencies active in the city and strong penal action should be taken against those law enforcers who are found guilty of dereliction of duty.

Mourners of Bomb Victims Blame U.S.

BK1103142295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI, March 11 (AFP)—A funeral Saturday [11 March] for 12 Shiites killed in a bombing at a mosque here, degenerated into violence with some of the thousands of mourners setting fire to buses and chanting anti-government and anti-US slogans, witnesses said.

Following the burials, militants burned at least four buses and tried to attack a police station before being restrained by religious leaders, they said.

Many of the militants were armed and some fired shots into the air but no one was hurt. The mood at the funeral was ugly, hostile and tense, witnesses said, adding paramilitary troops and police were present in large numbers.

Speakers at the funeral for those killed in Friday's bombing at a Shiite mosque, in which 24 people were also injured, blamed the United States for fomenting sectarian tension in Karachi.

Maulana Ghulam Hasnain, a leader of the Shiite Moslem Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan (TJP), leading the funeral prayers, said Shiites and Sunnis were "brothers" and it was the United States that was creating rifts between them.

"They want the Sunnis and Shiites to fight, but we will not. We will keep on burying our dead but will not fight with our Sunni brothers," said Hasnain.

He demanded that the government resign, as crowds called for revenge for the killings.

Rocket Fired at Muslim League Leader's Home

BK1103171895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to an official press note issued in Karachi this evening, some unidentified persons in two cars reached near the residence of Pir Saheb Pagara [chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Functional group] in KDA [Karachi Development Authority] Scheme No. 1 this morning. One masked man fired a rocket at the residence of Pir Saheb. The rocket hit the wall of the house. Its impact also shattered some

window panes. The press note said no injury occurred to anyone. Pir Saheb Pagara was not in the house.

The press note also said that one of the (?persons) while fleeing away from the scene fired on a police kiosk near National Stadium, injuring a police personnel on duty. The Sindh chief minister, Syed Abdullah Shah, visited the residence of Pir Saheb Pagara this evening and inquired about the incident.

Concealed Explosive Blamed

BK1103153995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting official sources, reports that an explosion was caused by an explosive substance that was concealed in a flower vase by some unknown persons outside the residence of Pir Saheb Pagara [chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Functional group] in Karachi this morning. The explosion caused damage to the outer wall of the residence. Pir Saheb Pagara was not present at his residence when the explosion occurred. Investigations into the incident have been started. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah visited the residence of Pir Saheb Pagara and inquired about this incident. The local administration briefed the chief minister on this incident.

Studies Blame Indian Spies for 'Terrorism'

BK1203124995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 Mar 95 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore—Investigations conducted by various intelligence agencies have revealed that around 35,000 RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents, who have managed to settle in Pakistan during the last decade were mainly responsible for the ongoing wave of terrorism in various parts of the country, especially in Karachi.

Intelligence reports submitted recently to the Ministry of Interior say that RAW agents have accelerated subversive activities in Pakistan with an aim to create maximum political unrest here before Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's forthcoming visit to the United States. In the backdrop of this very fact, the agencies did not rule out the possibility of RAW involvement in Wednesday's [8 March] murder of two American diplomats in Karachi.

According to the intelligence reports, a majority of the RAW agents who have entered Pakistan between 1983-93, have successfully got the Pakistani passports and

identity cards. Of the 35,000 RAW-trained terrorists, 12,000 are working in Sindh, 10,000 in Punjab 8,000 in NWFP [North West Frontier Province] and 5,000 in Balochistan. The RAW high-ups have recently constituted a special cell namely 'Establishment 2000' which has been given the task of creating lawlessness in Sindh.

The intelligence reports say that the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), created in 1868, has assumed a significant role in formulating India's domestic and foreign policies. Working directly under the Indian prime Minister, it has over the years become an effective instrument of India's national power. RAW has therefore been actively engaged in fomenting trouble by infiltrating trained terrorists, especially in Sindh and Punjab from across the border. RAW has also enrolled an extensive network of agents and anti-government elements within Pakistan. And besides using their own agents, "dissident elements" from various sectarian and ethnic groups of Sindh and Punjab are also picked up by the RAW, who are then sent to India for imparting training in terrorist and sabotage activities.

Having completed their training of five to eight weeks, these "dissident elements" are brought back with the task of promoting parochialism and escalating ethnic strife in active collusion with extremists and anti-Pakistan political elements. Quite recently, the reports say, over a dozen RAW trained terrorists were apprehended and interrogated by Pakistani law enforcing agencies. These interrogations recorded that RAW has been running at least 40 terrorist training camps at Rajasthan, East Punjab, Held Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and certain other parts of India. These camps are being run by the RAW's Special Service Bureau (SSB).

The intelligence reports say that the RAW and other Indian intelligence agencies have clearly identified Sindh as Pakistan's centre of gravity. A highly political, ethnically, racially and culturally polarised population in the province, within which deep-rooted grievances against each other exist, is a major factor that provides RAW with easy operational access.

Financed, trained and equipped by the SSB, the Indian agents are craftily exploiting Sindh's multi-dimensional ethnic and social problems to their advantage. RAW agents are imparted intensive training in handling grenades, machine-guns, time-bombs, rocket launchers and plastic explosives. They are also trained in rope climbing, martial arts and guerrilla warfare. Most of the instructors are from the Indian Army but they dress like civilians while working the training camps.

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